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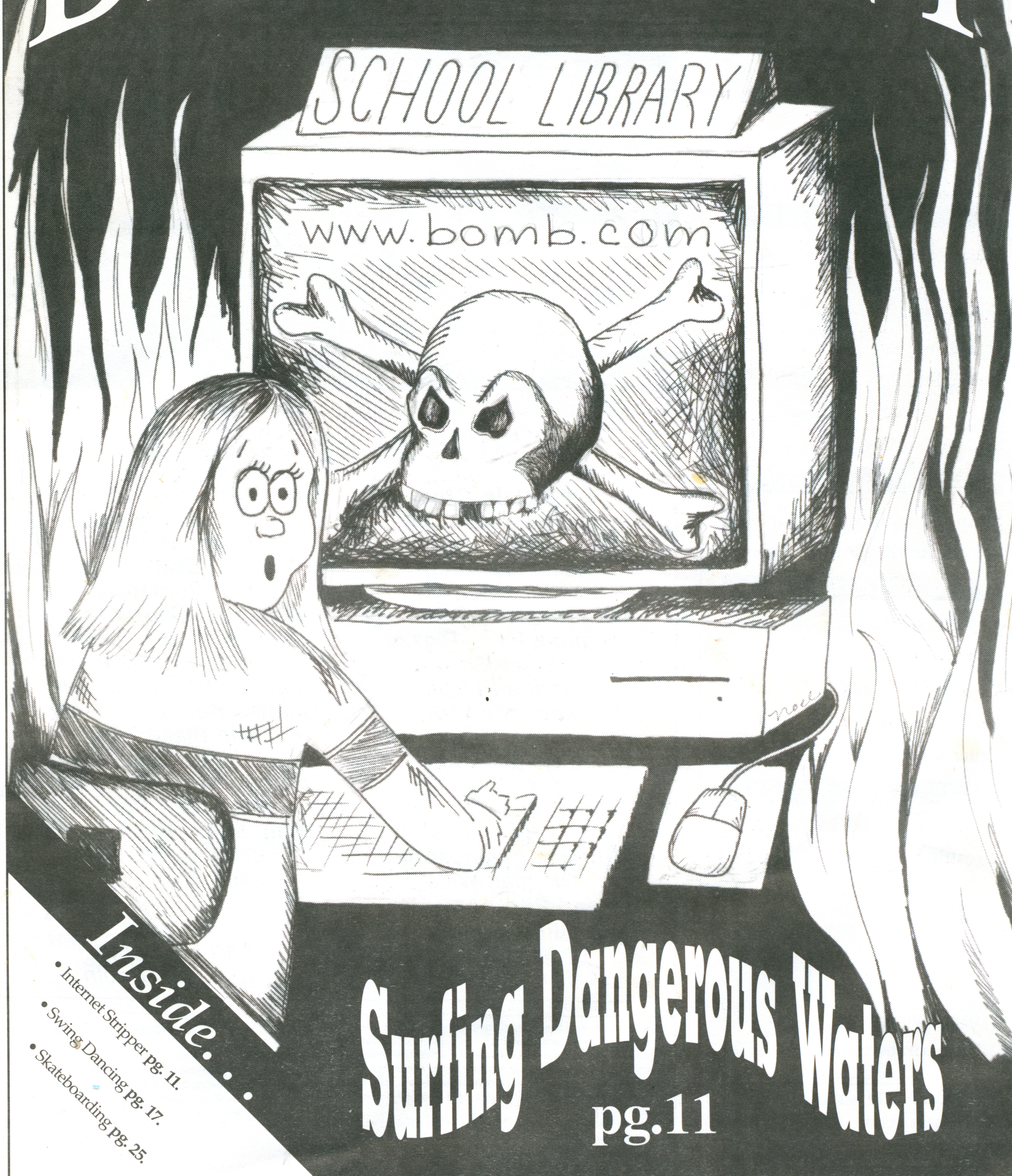
BLUEPRINT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Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

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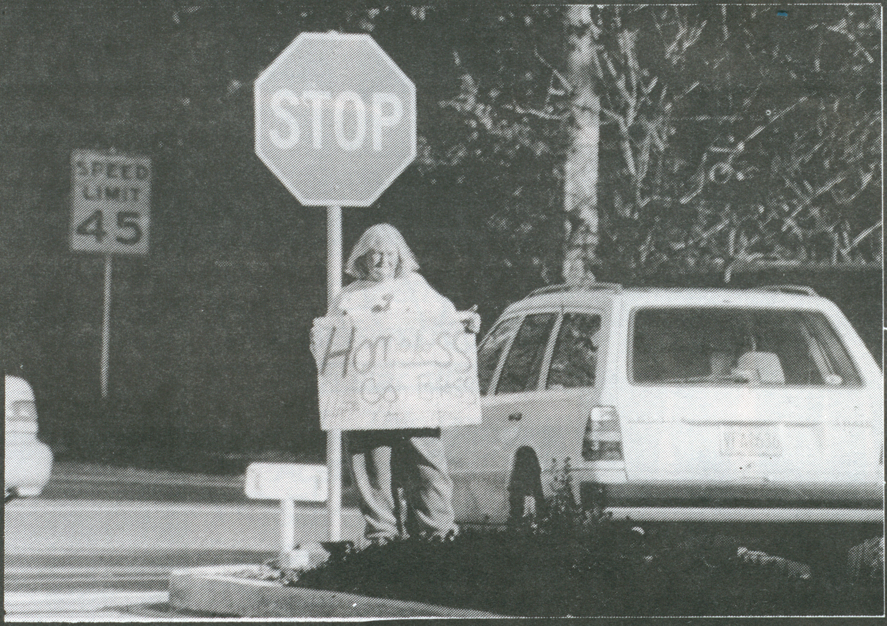
ON THE COVER: The internet has opened up the world to students, including information on how to build a bomb and on white supremacy groups.

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

A homeless woman stands on the corner of Olympic Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette, wishing those more fortunate a Happy Thanksgiving.

Blueprint '98-'99

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Editorials, with or without bylines, reflect the opinions of the editorial writer(s) and are independent of the opinions of the school administration, student body, faculty, advisor and staff.

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ACALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE . . . . . .

Classes collect cans for Thanksgiving pg. 6

COMPUTER THEFT

Thanksgiving Turkeys Take Byte of Apples

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
News Editor

The thefts of three computers from Acalanes classrooms over Thanksgiving break left three teachers without all of the information stored on their hard drives and resulted in a loss of at least $3000.

Computers were stolen from rooms 409, 410, and 412, those of Mike McAlister, Liz Galer, and Barbara Mochizuki. Galer's window pane was removed, showing where the thieves had entered, but no damage was done to the other two victim classrooms except for the thefts of the computers.

"Computers are always a target item in break-ins," said Lafayette police officer Ken Whitlatch, who took the initial police report.

The victim teachers say they have been able to conduct class as usual, but the loss of certain pieces of information are impossible to replace. "I'm going to have to a little bit of catching up on grades. I have that on disks though. That's not what hurt so much. What hurt me more than anything else was that I had saved every internet site, every document I've either researched or written myself. Six years as a teacher were on that hard drive," said McAlister, a government teacher. McAlister's printer was left unharmed, most likely because it was worth very little, he said.

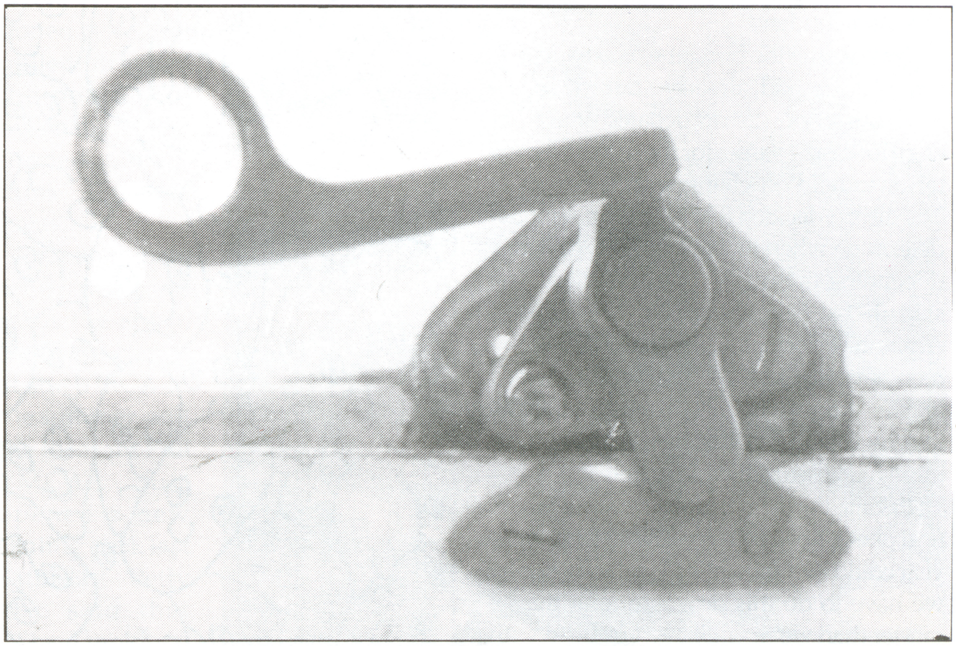
Galer, on the other hand, lost both her PC computer and printer in the siege. She said an alarm system could have helped the situation. "I had a funny feeling when I came in. I don't know why, but I saw the garbage can was tipped over and that gave me some sort of weird signal. I never peer through the window hole first, but I did, and I saw the computer gone," said Galer of her Nov. 27 visit to her classroom. A police report was filed immediately.

Barbara Mochizuki was another victim to the crime. She lost her monitor and computer, but her printer was elsewhere and was not taken. Mochizuki's computer was a power Mac she brought in on her own. "I didn't have very much on the computer, because I do much of my work at home or down in the computer lab. All I had in here were my grades, which I still have a hard copy of in my binder. I just have to redo all of it," said Mochizuki. She said that she will be hesitant to leave computerware in the classroom in the future. "I'm not sure I want a computer," she said. "If I do, I might pack it up every day and take it somewhere else."

According to Vice Principal Jerry Bucci, the classrooms were most likely entered through the windows, although Galer's room is the only one that has physical evidence.

Bucci estimated that there are six to eight areas on the Acalanes campus, including the library and administration buildings, that have alarm systems, which is well under 50%. "All the information about (alarming) has been sent to the district with questions concerning security of the facilities, especially related to computers as we have more and more," said Bucci.

"We suspect that all three were taken sometime Thursday or Wednesday," said Bucci. Bucci and Whitlatch said there are no suspects yet.



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Police believe that this window handle, which has been tampered with, may have been a possible entry way for the burglars.

ENGLISH CLASSES

Class Size Reduction Postponed Until '99

By Andria Flakoll
Feature Editor

Despite plans for classroom downsizing at Las Lomas and Campolindo next semester, freshman English and World History classes at Acalanes will not be reduced until the start of the 1999-2000 school year, due to the money provided by California's new education budget.

By the time the budget was passed, this school year had already started, so the Acalanes school district debated on whether to downsize classes for the second semester or to hold off changes until next year. The district decided that each school should determine when to implement the change depending upon their own situation. "We said that we would prefer not to," said Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt. "Freshmen have just arrived. They've just settled in. They know who their teachers are. Now to send them all out of here is going to be more of a disruption than a help."

Prior to the decision, teachers were skeptical about how positive downsizing mid-year could be. "If there's a legal reason why we have to do this downsizing at the semester than we're willing to go ahead with it because we do think the long range benefits would be worth the disruption. If there's any choice, however, we would prefer to wait until September because we think it would be less disruptive for the freshmen students," said Co-English Department Chair Wendy Dunstan.

The reduced class-size legislation gives school districts the freedom to determine when the change will be made. However, Sacramento mandates that English be the first class reduced. World History, the only course taken by all Freshmen, will be the second class reduced next year, said Principal Keith Schmidt.

The money allocated by the state to fund the change will not cover its actual cost. "The state government pays school districts $135 per student that is in one of the classes. We do know that our costs are greater than that," said Dr. Larry Larson the Assistant Superintendent. The district is not yet sure of the exact cost of the change.

Other problems would result from a second semester change. Reducing the freshmen English classes will require more rooms than are currently available at Acalanes. However, this problem could be solved with the use of the portables that will be in place during construction of the new theater.

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Besides space constraints caused by mid-year class changes, new staff would have been needed. More than two qualified teachers would need to be hired to teach the five new English classes and six world History classes created by the change.

"It sounds like gee you get a portable and then you put a teacher working full time and that solves it, but it doesn't necessarily work out that way throughout the schedule," said Schmidt. In order to put every freshman into a smaller English class, a students' entire schedule would have had to be changed.

Some teachers felt that while smaller classes would promote a better learning and teaching environment, it's not the appropriate time. "I think moving the class sizes down to twenty is wonderful. It would give a lot more chances to work with kids on their writing, and read their essays, and work individually," said English teacher Sherry Disher, "I don't think the ideal time to do it is mid-year. It puts a lot of pressure on teachers to try to make sure we've taught all the same things."

Disher did see some advantages to a semester change. She already has a class of 26 students but she says "I know some teachers who have large classes like 30 and 32, so for their sakes it's better to do it now than wait till next fall."

Head Counselor Robert Gangi agrees that larger classes can be challenging for teachers. "Sometimes [freshmen] are anxious about coming to high school and they're are little bit uneasy and sometimes their behavior is a little bit less mature, and if you have twenty of them versus thirty of them it's a much better situation," said Gangi.

However Gangi saw many problems involved in a semester change. "If in the first semester students read certain plays and novels and those same plays and novels are the only ones available for their new class in the second semester, their learning will be significantly disrupted," said Gangi.

Many others saw downsizing classes for the second semester as opposed to next year as feasible. "All the high schools that I ever taught in and when I was a vice principal we had a completely different master schedule second semester than we had first semester. I don't think it's detrimental," said Larson.

Weighing the pros and cons of downsizing mid-year, Miramonte, like Acalanes, decided to hold off until till next year.

INTERNET STRIPPER

Dirty Dancing Damages Reputations

By Heather Klurfeld
Staff Writer

Stripping isn't just something that high school students witness being done to old furniture in a woodshop class anymore. At local high school parties, including at least one held by Acalanes students, strippers have become a part of the festivities.

Some sophomores at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton have added a twist to the normal party by combining dancing, partying, and "trick-or-treating," and as a result 30 to 50 girls managed to entertain themselves on Halloween this year. The sophomore girl who hosted the event passed out fliers throughout her high school inviting girls to an evening of entertainment, provided they bring $3-5 to cover the cost of "food" and other accessories, according to reports in the local press.

The result was a strip show by an adult male, reportedly hired through the internet, in front of thirty to fifty minors. The teenagers allegedly performed lewd acts on the stripper and the stripper allegedly fondled the girls, who he claims he did not know to be minors.

The mother is being accused of negligence and the stripper is being accused of exposing minors to lewd entertainment.

"This is appalling," said one Acalanes Parents Club mother. "It makes you wonder what type of a parent would expose their child to such an act. I would question the parental judgment of this mother."

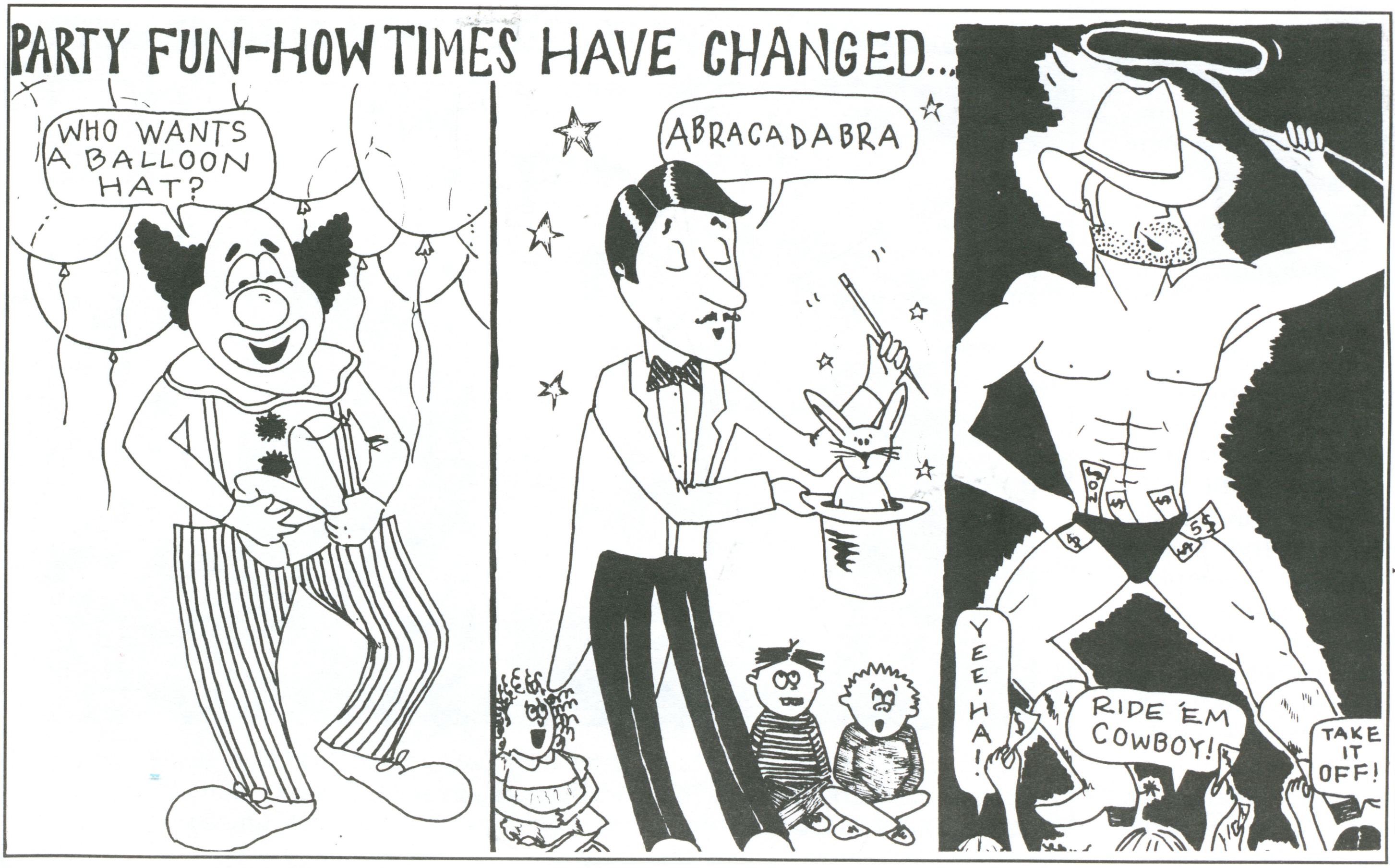
Steven Schmitt, the entertainer, is being represented by Danville attorney Bill Gagen who, despite numerous attempts by *Blueprint*, declined to be interviewed.

"I think it is wrong of a parent to show negligence such as this. She put not only her own daughter at risk. but other peoples' children at risk, too. That's where she really crossed the line," said junior Laura Cooper.

Acalanes students have held their own strip shows throughout the years. A student who spoke under condition of anonymity told *Blueprint* that he'd been to a party held by an Acalanes student and attended by a female stripper within the last six months. He said that the stripper was hired through an acquaintance for a friend's 18th birthday.

The stripper did know that some of the people at the party were under 18, yet there was "inappropriate physical contact" with minors at the party. The student said, "It was good. There was no harm done."

In another incident, there was a male stripper at a party for some senior girls last year, according to the same source. He claimed that both boys and girls have parties with strippers on a common basis.


PARTY FUN-HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED...
WHO WANTS A BALLOON HAT?
ABRACADABRA
YEE-HA!
RIDE 'EM COWBOY!
TAKE IT OFF!

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

DHS GRANT

Acalanes Wins The Jackpot With DHS

Acalanes Given a $390,000 Grant to Update Technology

By Brianne Kennedy
Staff Writer

Acalanes has won the Lottery! The Digital High School Grant lottery, that is. The jackpot: a cool $390,000 to be spent on new computer equipment.

As a keen knowledge of computers quickly becomes more and more important in the real world, Acalanes High School has been chosen by the state of California to apply for a $390,000 grant that will make it a "second round" state named Digital High School (DHS).

The grant, furnished by the state of California, will eventually be awarded to every high school in the state as part of an effort to meet a federal goal of having computers in every U.S. classroom by 2001.

"There should be more equipment access for both students and teachers, there should be a minimum of one computer in every classroom, and there should be more than adequate training for staff," said keyboarding and ROP teacher Paul Bernard.

"Though non-competitive, the DHS application process is not straightforward," says the packet of information entitled An Insider's Guide to the Digital High School Process. A complete grant application includes a written plan and proof that the school plans to, or has already made, computer equipment purchases that match it. It is worth $300 per pupil.

Although it may have been expected, Bernard said that the staff at Acalanes did not start preparing a DHS application before it was chosen to do so.

Leading Acalanes in the quest to be named a DHS is Principal Keith Schmidt. He is aided by and oversees a committee of parents, teachers (each representing a different Acalanes academic department), and community members.

Several Acalanes High School faculty members visited some of the "first round" Digital High Schools (schools that were chosen in the first phase of the grant lottery).

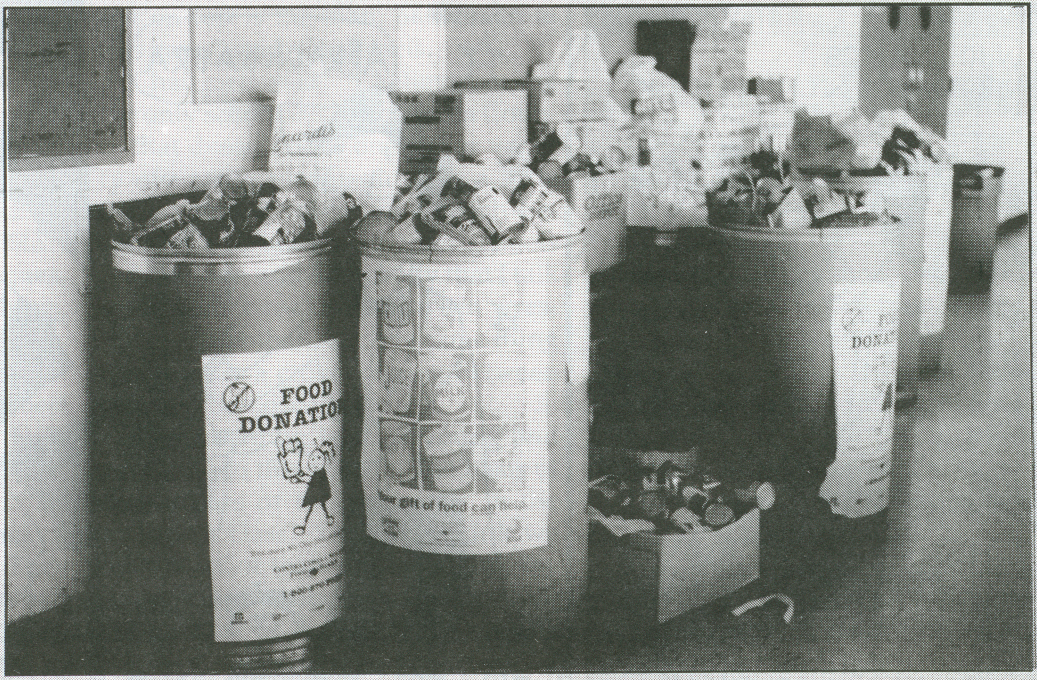
At one such school that French teacher Stan Oberg visited, the students that were sports reporters for the school paper were each given a lap top that was connected with an infrared laser to the paper's main computer. They wrote their stories as they watched their games from the bleachers, and were able to immediately send in their work, which could be laid out and ready for press in just minutes.

Will coming from a Digital High School improve the chance that your college application is accepted or that you get a better job? Not necessarily.

Acalanes Counselor Sally Porter believes that because the idea of the Digital High School grant is so new, we cannot yet judge the effectiveness of better computer access. She also said, "Nothing can be learned on a computer that can't be learned in a book, too."

The other local jackpot winner is Las Lomas High School.

CANNED FOOD



Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

Barrels of canned food wait to be delivered to the Contra Costa Food Bank after the annual Acalanes Canned Food Drive. This year's first place winner was Elyce Johnson's fourth period class will 1,489 cans. In total there was approximately 4800 cans collected in the school.

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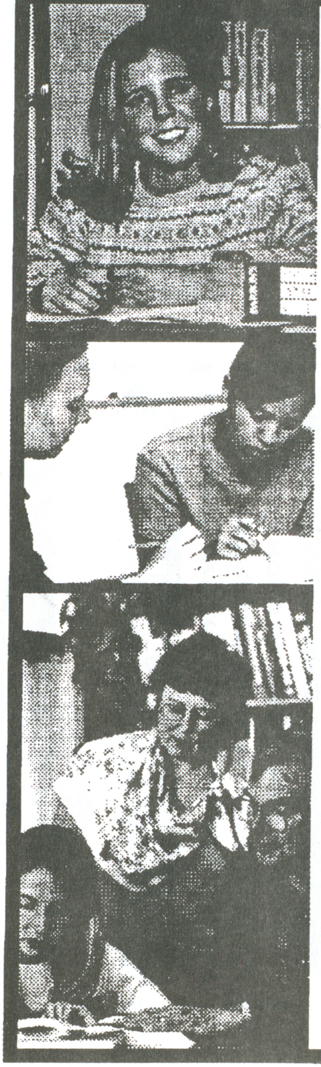

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OPPORTUNITIES

Leadership Seeks Out Educated Students

By Ann Bordetsky
Staff Writer

Is your personal junk mail pile suddenly winning the vertical competition with the Christmas catalogs? If so, talent search services and teachers may be the reason.

High School students have become a target of numerous programs seeking to "award" educational opportunities to students willing to foot the bill in return for the chance to beef up their transcripts.

Eligible students receive colorful, glossy brochures promising a "challenging academic environment." They promise college credits and an "unmatched college-preparatory program" of living in dorms and eating cafeteria food. Many Acalanes seniors can't resist such youth leadership opportunities, especially since the brochures assure that he/she was picked through a rigorous, academically demanding selection process.

According to the Director of Academics for the National Student Leadership Conference, Dr. Paul Lisnek, programs base their selection on teacher recommendations, alumni nominations, and talent search services, such as Duke's Talent Identification Program (TIP). Lisnek said this provides an "objective selection process."

Duke's TIP, a widely used talent search program, claims to base eligibility on SAT scores from the seventh grade. Students must score in the top 3% of the national average to be on the talent list. Brad Quin of the College Board, however, refuted a connection with TIP, saying "the Search Service does not provide any information to talent agencies like Duke's TIP...[which] administers its own test."

According to Quin, many programs claim relation to the College Board in order to seem legitimate and trustworthy, but do not receive any information from the service. "The Search," said Quin, "has very, very strict eligibility guidelines for access to student names...there are other commercial list sellers...that deliberately make students believe they secured their name from the College Board." Quin said in order for a program to receive information from the Search it has to be a member of the College Board and be accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.

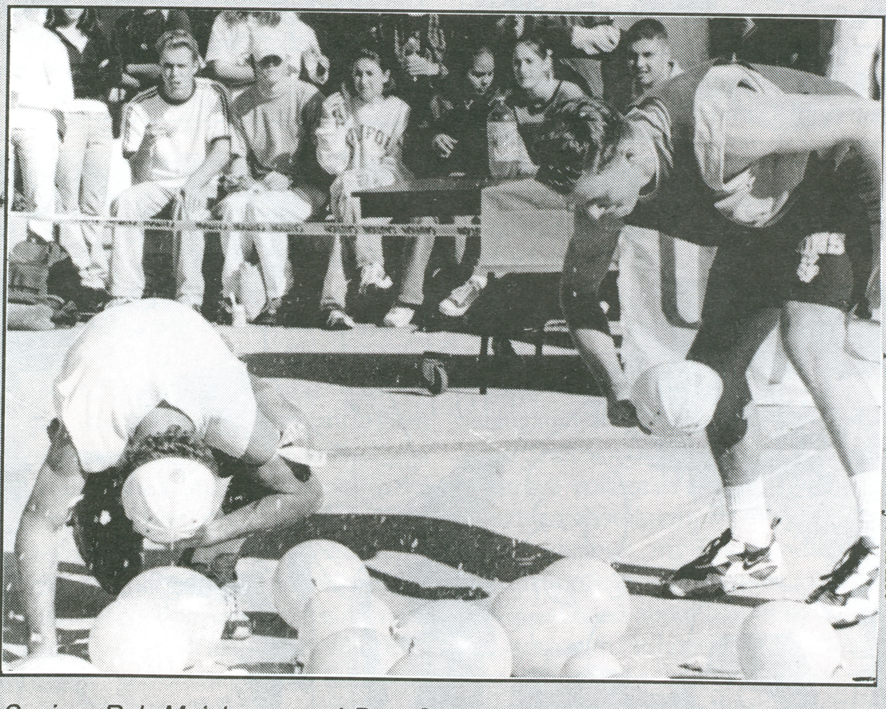
The only other eligible programs are state and federal agencies as well as non-profit organizations. Each program must pay a flat fee of $175 to receive names.

Legitimate selection process or not, no program simply awards the opportunity. The cost for one session of a program can range from $1000 to $2000. Most students attend sessions outside of the Bay Area, and plane tickets are not included in the price. Acalanes students who recently attended the National Youth Leadership Conference (NYLC) on medicine in Boston, Washington D.C., and San Francisco, coughed up $1,600 for a 10-day session.

Acalanes students who attended leadership conferences agree that although the programs may be overpriced for their educational value, the experience is well worth the money. Senior Jeff Yuen, who attended the NYLC on Law and Advocacy, said, "It wasn't worth the $1000...but I don't regret it."

Seniors Stephanie Jung and Simone George, who participated in the NYLC on medicine, said that the program delivered the things it promised in brochures. However, what made the trip worth it was meeting interesting people and developing friendships. "I met people from 49 states and five countries," said Jung. "I still keep in touch with all of them."

DOUBLE DARE



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Seniors Rob Meinbress and Dan Gray compete in "Double Dare" in the Quad on Friday, Nov. 20. The object of this part of the contest was to try to locate an object hidden in a whipped cream filled balloon.

DRUG MEETING

Drug Meeting Offers Advice

By Lexi Matsui
Staff Writer

Parents voiced their opinions and suggestions for solutions at a follow-up meeting Monday, Dec. 7 regarding the recent release of the Acalanes Drug and Alcohol Coalition survey.

Ellen Peterson, head of the Acalanes Drug and Alcohol Coalition, led the meeting. Hands flew up to volunteer ideas when the question "What can we do?" was asked. Parents volunteered ideas in four different categories: parental norms, school, community, and police/legal standpoints.

On the school level, parents felt that things like crisis counselors and counselor confidentiality could be helpful. They also suggested new communication ideas and web sites.

Parents and administrators felt that parents need to talk to their kids rather than lecture them. They feel that the home needs to be a safe place for kids to have. They also suggested that parents should speak to their children about their own experiences.

On a police/legal standpoint, suggestions were made about a Teen Court and education of kids and parents about the consequences of substance abuse.

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Center offered some ideas for the community. They informed the group that the center often hosts things like ski trips, swing dancing lessons, dances, "Saturday Night Java", movie nights, and the Ace of Clubs that were successful, but weren't getting deserved publicity. These programs were mentioned after the constant complaint from students that they "never have anything to do."

Other community suggestions included awards for academic excellence and showings of artwork by students in local businesses.

There were also very broad and general issues brought up at the meeting, such as our society's need to learn how to respect its children and the idea that all children are the community's children, meaning that parents need to look out for each other's kids.

Activists such as probation officers and representatives from schools and organizations, like the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Center attended, taking in suggestions that the parents and few students had.

Petitions were also passed around the room, protesting Rite Aid's alleged easy access to cigarettes and Safeway's placement of soft drinks amid three aisles of alcohol.

SAMPLE SALE

The Acalanes Booster Club held its 22nd annual Salesman Sample Sale on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Acalanes High School, raising $13,000 for the Acalanes sports programs.

Over 100 vendors set up booths, selling items ranging from Beanie Babies to musical pillows to winter clothing. The Boosters club sold food, and John Pickett won the $1000 raffle prize. A total of 1,200 admission tickets were sold, all proceeds going to the Booster's club.

One of the main organizers of the sale, Alice Carter, said "A lot of time and effort goes into these sales, but when we accomplish our goal of generating money for Acalanes, it is all worth it."

The sale grossed a total of $90,000 with 10% of all sales going to Acalanes. Each vendor paid $50 per booth and set up their tables in the two gyms. One vendor, Daryl Dudum, said, "With all the people coming and going, we had numerous sales and profited well from the event." LASF had one of the more interesting booths with their raffling of a 1998 Volkswagon Bug.

-James Sherwood

RECYCLING

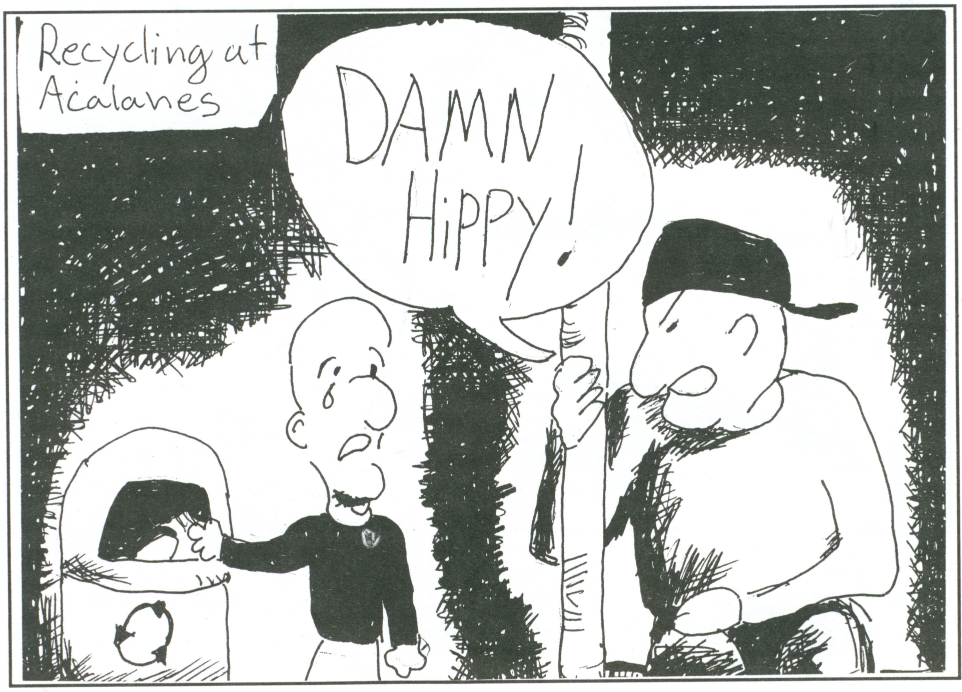
The Acalanes faculty was informed recently in a letter from Dianne Lehmann about the change of the recycling company used by the school.

The larger Valley Waste Management bought the small recycler the school had been working with, L and K Recycling.

"We're paying them fifty dollars a month...for them to let us have the bin(s) and pick (them) up twice a month" said Lehmann, the leadership student in charge of the recycling program at Acalanes. The school does not get reimbursed for the recycled goods.

Lehmann said that one of the reasons she had chosen L and K was because it was smaller and more personal.

-Reed Miller



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Lafayette Parks & Recreation Dept.

PRESENTS:

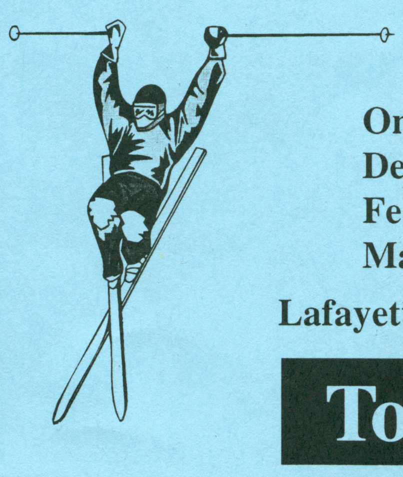
Snowboard & Ski

Trips for Teens

Date	Location	Reg. Deadline
Dec 12	Kirkwood	12/2
Dec 27-30	Mammoth Mtn - Great Holiday Gift!	12/21 - ALMOST FULL
Jan 16	Sugarbowl	1/6
Jan 30*	Heavenly	1/20
Feb 6	Sierra Tahoe	1/27
Feb 19-21	Boreal, Northstar, Sugarbowl - Sells Out Each Yr!	1/20
Mar 6*	Squaw Valley	2/24
Mar 20-21	Boreal, Sugarbowl - Sell Out Expected!	2/17
Mar 27	Northstar	3/17
Apr 17	Kirkwood	3/31

All trips include transportation on luxury buses, lift ticket/s and adult supervision. Weekend trips include lodging (4 per room) and continental breakfasts. Rentals are available at Nor Ski & Sports in Lafayette(ask for discount). Lessons are available for a fee at each resort. 'Club Vertical' members deduct $20 for Northstar trips.

NO REFUNDS AFTER TRIP DEADLINE.



	Cost	Depart	Return
One-day Trips	$64/69*	4:15am	8:30pm
Dec 27-30 Trip	$305	2:00pm	10:00pm
Feb 19-21 Trip	$185	5:30pm	8:30pm
Mar 20-21 Trip	$128	11:30am	8:30pm

Lafayette BART or Heather Farms Community Center - TBA

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A
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Lafayette Youth Commission
presents....

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Music & Dance Club for High School Students

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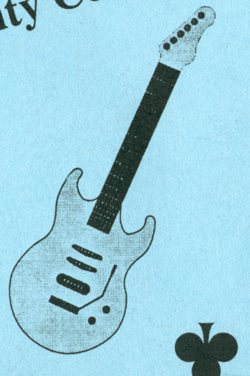

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A CALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE

INSIDE . . . . . .

District Magazine Debuts.
Pg. 16

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Faculty Divided on Value of In-Service

By Hiro Kagiyama
Staff Writer

Teachers seem to have mixed opinions about in-service days according to a recent Blueprint survey which shows some hail the days as important times to collaborate with co-workers while others call them disruptive periods that cut up the school year.

The recent school wide survey consisted of questions that asked about the effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity of the staff development days. Forty of the 80 surveys distributed were returned to Blueprint. In the area of productivity and improvement, the majority felt that these days were only marginally successful and that only some of the in-service days were productive.

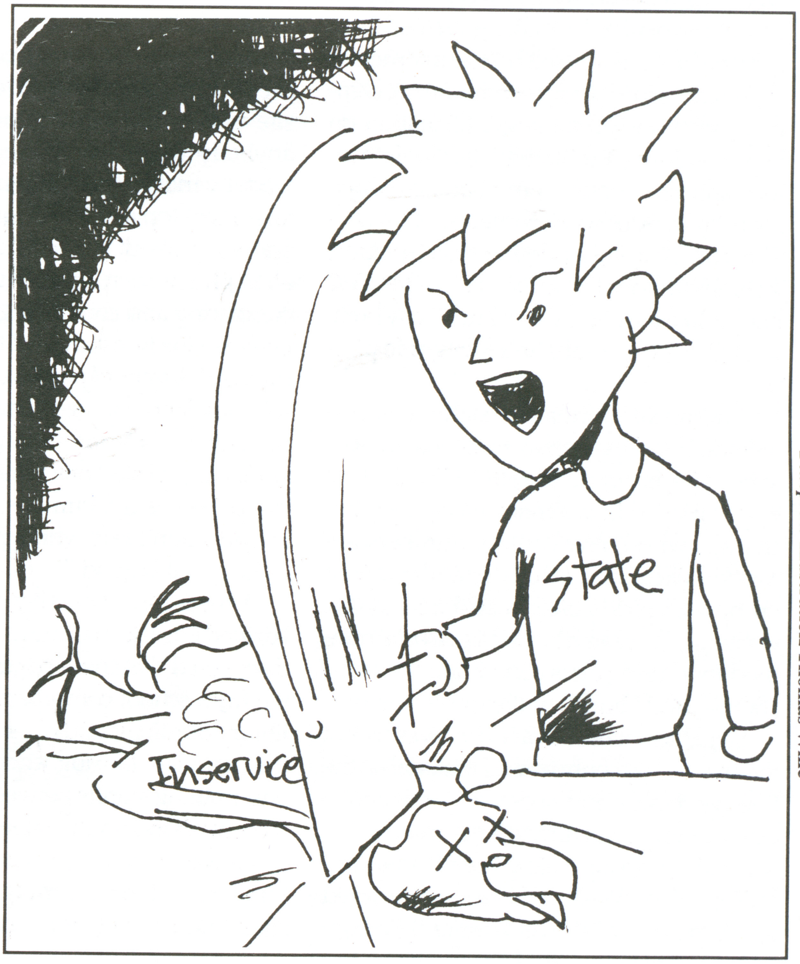
One teacher who wished to remain anonymous said "...a major reason for the lack of productivity was the lack of efficiency." The survey showed that many other teachers felt this way as well, with 24 out of the 40 who responded saying only some of the in-service days resulted in actual improvement.

Many teachers felt that often time these in-service days would be better spent in the classroom with students rather than breaking up the school year with longer vacations.

English teacher Bob Jensen said the reason that in-service days are ineffective is that with these extended holidays the material that was taught before an extended break must be taught to students again wasting valuable teaching time. Most of the teachers also seemed to reflect this view, with 28 stating that sometimes it would be better to spend the time in the classroom rather than spending the same time for staff development.

Thirty-three teachers agreed to disagree on a new law passed by Governor Pete Wilson which removed most in-service days and put them in before and after the school year.

English teacher Erik Seabass disagreed with the new law saying that "by pushing development days to the summer and changing the rate of pay [by giving a flat rate] suggests we are professional babysitters, not professional educators." But those who support this new bill say that it allows the school year to stay intact while still making it possible to discuss issues with a large number of teachers.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Most teachers felt that it would be better to have fewer in-service days with per diem pay, eliminating the idea of a flat rate. Some teachers just felt that staff development days are a waste of time and should be completely removed from the teachers' curriculum.

The teachers had the chance to freely respond in this survey and a majority of the faculty who did respond talked about the planning of the in-service days. These teachers felt that they should have more power in the scheduling of in-service days and in choosing what topics should be discussed.

Also, many teachers expressed the idea of having in-service days with other schools in order to learn what people in other areas are doing to teach students.

This issue of in-service days is one that is and will be under a lot of discussion, and as long as teachers stand divided there are no signs that this will be resolved soon.

INTERNET DANGERS

Internet Hazards Booming

By Sam Cunningham
Staff Writer

The Internet may seem like a harmless invention to most people: a bottomless of well of information, commerce and friendly people. Indeed it is quite safe for most people, but not a 15 year-old Pittsburgh boy who was maimed several weeks ago by a CO_2 bomb of his own making, created from a recipe he downloaded off the Internet.

While incidents like this one are not common, websites containing information on bomb building are. To think that online information about such contraband is hidden away in dark obscure corners is a fantasy. The truth is, using a popular search engine, virtually anyone can locate recipes for CO2 bombs like the one the Pittsburgh boy built, as well as pipe bombs and low grade plastique.

Additional information readily available included step-by-step instructions on how to hotwire any car made after 1971, the best way to trick soda machines into spitting out change, whose credit cards numbers are easiest to steal, and a thirty page document on how to pick locks. In addition to this webpage, my search turned up several hundred thousand pages containing the word "bomb" and "build" in the same sentence.

Illegal activities such as explosives are not the only highly controversial material on the Internet. Fascist and neo-Nazi propaganda exists in great quantity on the Internet. In particular, a group calling itself White Aryan Resistance (WAR), whose website urged all it's visitors to take up arms and prepare to help defend the white race, registers thousands of visits per day, indicating the popular of right wing extremity on the Internet. While not as numerous as their opponents, the extreme left wing has also established popular websites: an alliance of sites proclaiming that California is still a part of Mexico and that Latin America must reclaim and reconquer it.

More relevant to students was a website which for absolutely no charge at all (the site is financed through advertisements) anybody who wandered in could download a variety of essays and reports about all sorts of topics. On this site I located several essays about Homer's Odyssey (a work all Sophomores read in English II), a work comparing and contrasting the differences between the two halves of the Roman Empire, and dozens of papers useful in all high school science courses. This type of cheating enjoys common use among Acalanes students, revealed one Junior: "Downloading papers is a victimless crime. I mean, teachers don't care who writes your paper as long as it is good."

After finding these sites on my home PC, I drifted into the Acalanes computer lab and discovered that these pages are all accessible from school computers. These include library terminals and classrooms as well as the main lab. Barring teachers and librarians, nothing stands between students and all contraband on the Internet.

However, commercial software that automatically blocks surfers from accessing sites that are deemed "inappropriate" is available from several companies, including CyberPatrol and NetNanny. These "filters" are updated regularly by the host company to make sure new sites will be screened. Such products may be useful for individuals, but whether or not they are practical for a large public institution, such as the school computer lab, is debatable. The Acalanes Lab experimented with filtering software several years ago and according to Mr. Paul Bernard, Acalanes' chief computer instructor, found the experience unsatisfactory. A main problem with the screening software was that it often blocked perfectly harmless sites because of a certain word in the content. For example, a student was assigned to research information on breast cancer and was unable to access any sites from the Acalanes Lab because the filter blocked any site containing the word "breast".

Because of these problems, Acalanes has declined to employ blocking on its computers and it currently filter-free. An alternative to the screening is a contract that all Internet-using students must sign. In this legally binding agreement, students agree not to access information that may "indicate or suggest pornography, unethical or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, and/or inappropriate language". According to Bernard, the contract has been an overall success with only one or two isolated incidents of violation.

Government/Economics teacher Mike McAlister uses the Internet often in all his

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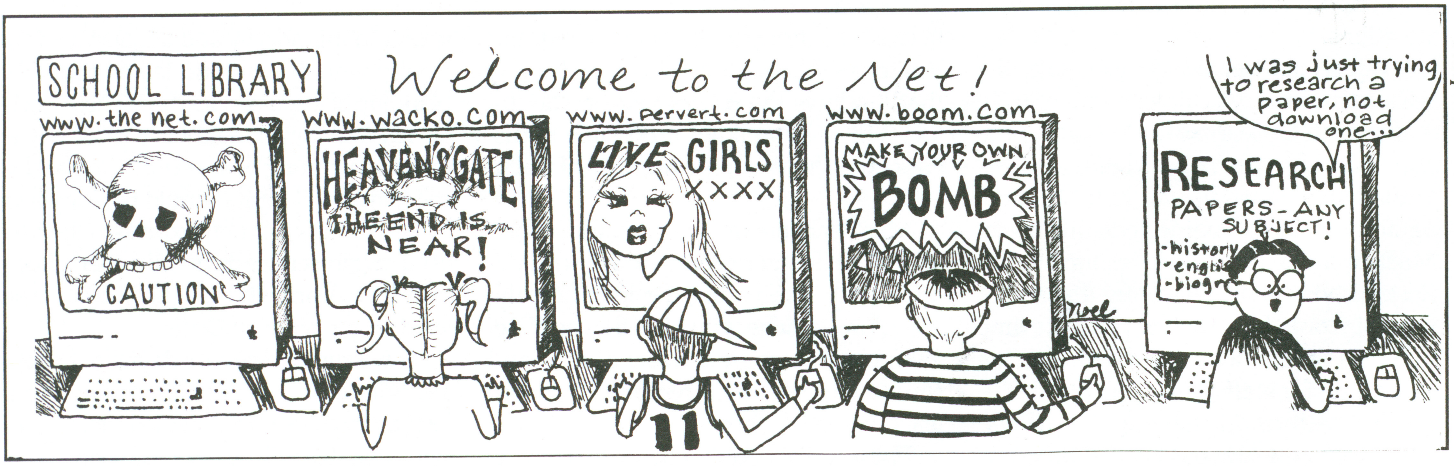


Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

•MOVIES MEAN MONEY

Interview With an Empire

By Heather Klurfeld
Staff Writer

GODZILLA
HOTEL

Internet Photo

Though it did not do as well as had been hoped, Godzilla symbolizes the growing tendency of the movie industry to place the desire for profit above true quality.

With the bombardment of movies entering theaters this holiday season, the avid moviegoer is thrown into the gauntlet of choices from stunning to sappy to hideous. The question is how do movie companies decide what themes and plots to propagandize? How do they know how many victims will spend two hours and seven dollars at their mercy? The answer is in the money— whatever draws attention to a particular movie over another is the direction studios venture. Whether it be an actor, special effects, or a particular plot or event, the studios are in the business of making money. If you're a female between the ages of 16 to 24, watch out— you're the studio's biggest target.

In an exclusive interview with Blueprint, Tavin Marin, Executive Assistant to the CEO of Centropolis Entertainment, the makers of blockbusters such as "Godzilla" and "Independence Day," tells about the major decisions movie companies face and the reasons behind those decisions.

Blueprint: What is the main reason for choosing certain scripts over others?

Tavin Marin: When you read a script, you studios read it for a number of reasons. One, is if you can visualize it as a movie. Two, if you think it would make a compelling movie. Also, if it's a marketable movie. While the movie making business is a very creative business, it's also a business. You're basically putting out a product to make money and you can be given money to make a beautiful art film, but if that film isn't going to make money back you're not going to be in good standing with whomever you're working with. Not only do you want a good story, you want something that other people are going to want to see. The release is something you take in consideration, but first you focus on the idea. Once that comes to fruition...you release the film at the appropriate time of year that is geared toward the story.

> *"Teenagers are the main target of movie studios... kids fall in love with stars and like to watch them over and over... "*
>
> **-Tavin Marin**

B: How much of the production is driven by money , rather than aesthetic or artistic ability?

TM: It depends very much on the company and on the filmmaker. That's why there are a lot of independent films because the filmmaker did not want a studio exercising control over their "art." Overall, everyone wants to make something that is artistic and creative and wonderful. Depending upon how involved you are in the business end you're more concerned with marketability (rather than creativity). It depends who you ask— if you ask the director or you ask the studio head they're going to tell you two different things.

B: Is the purpose of big blockbusters such as "Independence Day" and "Godzilla" to bring in money, or is there an underlying role that the public oversees?

TM: I would disagree. They are two entirely different films. Independence Day was made for way under $100 million... and this is probably the third grossing movie of all times. Initially, it was made as a disaster movie— not to make billions of dollars...it's a popcorn movie... the kind of movie where you get a packed (audience) and everyone has fun. Whereas something like Godzilla, they already had a franchise... they already knew it was going to bring in a certain number of people whether or not the film's storyline succeeded. Is the movie business about making money? Yes... but it's a creative way of making money... few people recognize that.

B: Are actors chosen on their ability to act or their ability to draw a crowd?

TM: Definitely both— if you know that you can get Leonardo DiCaprio or Brad Pitt in your movie you're already guaranteed a certain amount of box office success. However, if that actor has supporting players that can't act, it's going to make the actor look bad, which will bring the film down. A film with a star in it or directing it has a greater chance of success, though. By contrast, though, in Independence Day no one knew who Will Smith was except for as a musician. They didn't have these "A" list actors, but they did have people who could act well.

B: How does one enter into the movie business?

TM: There's not a way; it's how many ways. It's heavily spent on who you know and...in every job that you have it applies. No one asks you where you went to college. It's the one business where they have people who get the job, do the job well, and that they like to work with... a lot of it is just getting into a situation... just get involved in something, whether you get paid or not... get the experience... that's what they basically look for in a resume— what jobs have you had and who did you work for...it's very much about being at the right place at the right time.

B: Does your studio feel compelled to release a "larger than life" movie after the results that Fox entertainment received with "Titanic?"

> *I'm a sucker for the classics...those hopelessly romantic films where you don't know any of the dirt about the stars... you just look at them in all their glory...*
>
> **-Tavin Marin**

TM: There are good and bad things that happened with Titanic. Everyone thought that James Cameron was either a god or he was a stupid moron for doing that. The movie was extremely expensive... it was bad because if you look at the past summer... these movies made at least $300 million... but were deemed failures because of Titanic. That's what people are now comparing box office success to, and it's very unrealistic. It's the big films that give you the income to take chances on smaller pictures or new filmmakers or different stories where you really don't know which way it's going to go with the audience.

B: How do you feel the course of the movie industry has changed and will change in the future?

TM: It's an industry that is always evolving. Originally, everyone was under contract under one studio. Now, it's more important for directors to have their own company to retain control of their own films. I think that evolution will keep occurring until you see... the writers and producers gaining more and more control... where they will function more on their own. Before, so much was centered in Hollywood, but now there's a lot of funding that comes from all these different countries, so there's a lot more ways to have a movie made.

B: Do you believe the movie industry is bias in any way?

TM: I think we live in a somewhat sexist society and that gets translated on screen. Men do receive more money than women, but more and more women are moving into the studio world...the head of ABC is a woman, I believe... they're definitely in there, more so than before...it's an uphill battle but there's an increase of women...it's becoming more and more infiltrated... I think any business is bias... it's part of being human...we're always naturally bias to one thing or another... it's just do we have an open mind?

B: What or who is the main target of studios when a movie is released?

TM: Teenagers are the main target of movie studios... kids fall in love with stars and like to watch them over and over...

B: What, do you believe, it the best movie of all time?

TM: I love a lot of foreign films...American films... I'm a sucker for the classics: Casablanca, Two For the Road, North by Northwest..those hopelessly romantic films where you don't know any of the dirt about the stars... you just look at them in all their glory...

GIFTED PROGRAM

Creativity Flows Through Volcanic AGATE

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

This project created by an AGATE student depicts the history of the hanging tree of Amador during the 1860's, when 10 people died on the tree.

By Noel Fahden
Staff Writer

Based on their unique talent or creativity, several elite students were recently selected to participate in the Acalanes Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE) class.

Teachers Jeanne Ballard of Miramonte and Debbie Zamaria of Las Lomas were in charge of the class. Both agreed that teachers from the district chose students who were particularly talented and creative or would benefit from the class experience.

Some students were recommended because "..they show an excitement about life," Zamaria said.

Acalanes students Melissa Castellano, Elizabeth Geier, Erika Suzuki, Lauren Asta, Ashley Cowgill, Jennifer Kolhede, Steven Jones, Terence Wong, Gordon Shen, and Blake Koelmel participated in the recent fall session which went to Volcano. Students from Las Lomas, Campolindo, and Miramonte also attended.

AGATE holds four two hour seminars in the spring or fall which are followed by a four day retreat to Volcano or Point Reys. The weekly seminars gear students toward their cross disciplinary final projects (a combination of art, photography, music, history, or science, etc.) which are based on information gathered on the trips.

"The beginning of the seminars seemed a little vague and unclear because I wasn't sure how we were supposed to do the projects...but it turned out to be so much fun!" Ashley Cowgill said.

Volcano is a small town in the Gold Country with a population of 93 and it has only one main street. The 27 AGATE students stayed in close quarters in an old hotel. The purpose of going on the trip was to do research that could only be done in that particular area but bonding with one another was also emphasized.

"Everyone in the group got along really well and people made life long friends," Elizabeth Geier said.

During the trip, the students participated in group activities such as tours to nearby towns, abandoned mine shafts and museums. Students were also allowed an individual opportunity to research and interview local residents. The use of full creative freedom regarding the projects made the class particularly unique.

Although Volcano didn't offer an array of typical entertainment options, the students found ways to entertain and enjoy themselves. At night they went out on walks with their flashlights, hung out at the hotel, or visited the cemetery.

After the trip, AGATE held one last seminar to display the final projects. On the Tuesday, December 1, the projects transformed the library into a multimedia showcase with displays ranging from students' composed music, painted canvases, scrapbooks, and antiques. All of the projects reflected information about Volcano and exceeded the minimum of two cross disciplinary requirements.

Participants receive a pass or fail grade based on their final project and overall participation and contribution to the group. Class completion is also worth five credits.

"I thought the class was a really good experience. At first I was really contemplating whether or not I should do it...but it was really educational," said Gordon Shen.

IMPEACHMENT

An Insider's View of Impeachment

By Jeff Price
Staff Writer
Second in a Series

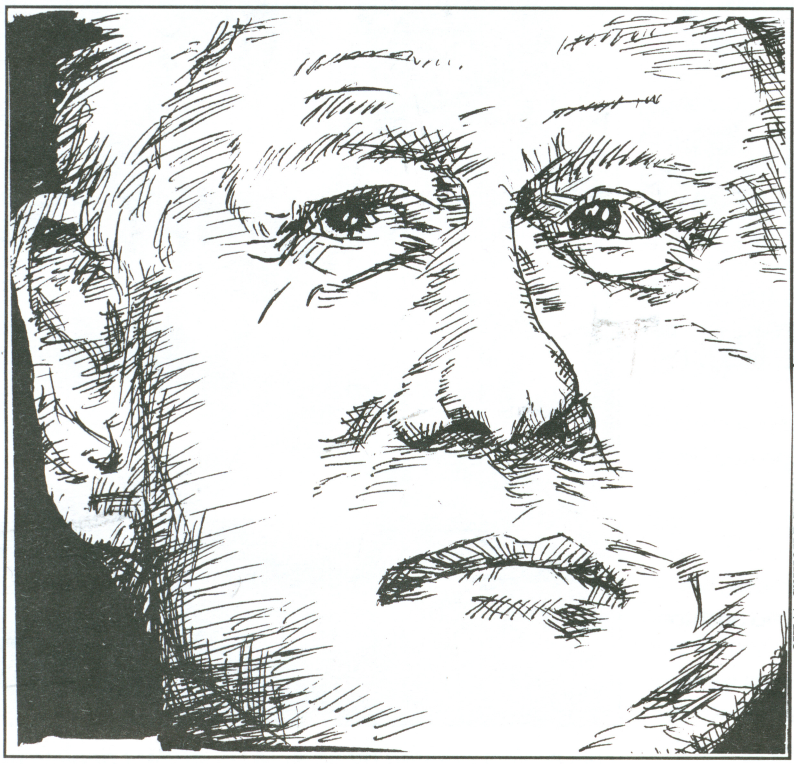
With the Articles of Impeachment ratified against President Clinton and the House of Representatives poised to vote on them, many pundits have found work comparing the Clinton scandal to Watergate and the massive scandals and cover-ups that led to the resignation of President Nixon. However, few of those comparisons are truly accurate, according to civil attorney and former member of the staff of the House Judiciary committee and codrafter of the Articles of Impeachment against then-President Nixon, Joe Woods.

Woods, who reviewed the charges for Blueprint and also commented on the historical background of the impeachment process, was a Senior Associate Special Counsel for the House Judiciary committee during the impeachment proceedings against then-President Nixon and debated on the Constitutional background and ramifications of the impeachment process.

After reviewing the first charge of perjury leveled against President Clinton, Woods said that he felt it was an unimpeachable offense in practice. While, in theory, nearly any offense, even various non-criminal actions, are covered under one of several understood definitions of the "high crimes and misdemeanors" phrase embodied in Article II, Section 4 that governs the removal of an official from office, in practice very few actions are truly impeachable, he said. They include treason and bribery, the two offenses directly mentioned in the Constitution; abuse of office; and other activities that "affect the execution" of the president's office.

In other words, said Woods, impeachable conduct is not simply illegal misconduct. An impeachment charge must be based on what Woods termed the "gravity of the conduct" related to high crimes and misdemeanors. "It's not just doing some bad thing that just anybody could do, it's doing a very bad thing that only that officer can do," said Woods.

The heart of the impeachment charge against the president are two alleged acts of perjury committed during the civil suit brought against him by Paula Jones, a former Arkansas public employee.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Perjury, a willful lie under oath, has been an offense investigated in impeachment proceedings several times, but it is a hard charge to prove, Woods said. He noted that when the House Judiciary Committee considered the Articles of Impeachment against President Nixon, a charge of perjury that related to a lie on his tax returns was disregarded because the Judiciary committee felt that tax forms were a "personal matter between a taxpayer and the government". However, impeachment proponents rebut that statement by noting that the perjury occurred during a federal civil trial, and that, because of the openness of court records and need for honesty in court proceedings, such a rule does not apply in the Clinton case.

Woods defended his views of the impeachment offense by relating a hypothetical situation that was discussed by the prosecutors during the Nixon impeachment case. They discussed the legal ramifications of the then-President killing his wife, and what it would have meant for the impeachment process.

The attorneys came to the surprising conclusion that the murder of Pat Nixon would not have been an impeachable offense, primarily because it did not "touch and concern" the powers of the presidency. An impeachable offense is something that is "a serious and gross act, an attack on the system of government, [or] an abuse of power," he said.

"As much as he should have been dealt with sternly under the law in such an instance, it has nothing to do with our system of government," he said.

He did say, however, that Nixon could have been prosecuted under criminal law, despite opinions that a sitting president cannot be until after leaving office, and then removed by virtue of being unable to perform his duties after conviction. "I've never understood what the supposed basis was" for not being able to bring criminal charges against a president in office, he said.

Woods felt that the perjury charges in the Clinton case were not impeachable for a similar reason, because they "don't have enough to do with the conduct of the office of the president". If the lies were relevant to an abuse of the office of the president, he stated, they might be impeachable, but they do not affect the office.

In addition, Woods cited the wording of the Constitution to bolster his opinion. "'High crimes and misdemeanors' is not a term that you find used in criminal law", but one used almost exclusively in impeachment proceedings, dating back to Fourteenth-century England. "It has a meaning... well explicated in England" that refers to the abuse of an office in the government. During debates over the drafting of the Constitution, he explained, the word 'maladministration' was suggested as an addition to the original impeachment clause, but was rejected during the 1787 Constitutional debates by the framers of the Constitution as being too broad for the purpose of impeachment, turning the process from a legal proceeding for the political punishment of crimes or abuses into a forum on the administration of the government, a process similar to a vote of no-confidence in a parliamentary system. In addition, such phrases as "neglect of duty", "perfidity", and "attempts to subvert the Constitution" were all proposed, but were rejected by the founding fathers as being too broad.

Concerning the charge of abuse of office, stemming from Clinton's failure to appear before a grand jury when asked to appear, Woods was similarly skeptical. "If anyone asks you to do something, it is implicit in the act of asking you that you have the ability to say no. When they told him [to appear], he did." He also said he felt that impeachment was not warranted by the actions the President took. "I don't think that [the founders] would have thought that they would have established a standard that was violated by what Mr. Clinton was accused of. They were concerned about affairs of state."

Most surprising was Woods' assertion that the most serious single violation of law by President Nixon, the so-called "smoking-gun" testimony was, in his opinion not necessarily impeachable in and of itself. In the "smoking gun" testimony Nixon ordered his chief advisor to mislead the CIA into persuading the FBI to call off the investigation of Watergate.

Single incidents, he said, would have to be of a magnitude as was the case with a Senator, who in the early nineteenth century incited an Indian rebellion.

Regarding the charge of obstruction of justice, Woods was doubtful of its merits. He noted that it did not rise to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors". He thought, however, that the President should be indicted and tried just like any other criminal defendant. "I don't believe that [the President] should be singled out... but I do believe he shouldn't be above the law".

SHOPPING STRESS

'Tis the Season to be Stressin'

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

While I was driving to the mall, the radio blasted a news brief on a survey taken in the United Kingdom about how a man's heart rate and blood pressure rise immensely when they are taken shopping by a female. However, the female's stress level is also worse when taking an adult male shopping than a little boy. Listening to this made me giggle out loud in the car. The brief brought forth memories of watching my mother take my trembling sweat soaked father shopping, and my own experiences on dragging my boyfriend with his digging heels leaving furrows in the concrete outside the mall.

It differs from person to person- shopping does. For my sister, she can literally shop for nine hours straight without a breather. She's the first to enter in the morning and is kicked out by security when it closes. She once told me that it took time and practice to perfect her shopping skills. It's not fun to her, it's an art. Something abstract and unique.

Those blessed with the Y chromosome see shopping as a scene in the latest horror movie. Then he makes a plan of attack, like a football game. Preparing himself for battle, he rushes in, grabs the first item to lay in the tracks of his eyesight, and buys it.

However, you ever watched a guy walk into Victoria Secret's in the mall and ask for some help? Now that's a funny sight. The other day I sat in that store, just waiting to catch a glimpse of the first species of man walk in and try to talk. My first specimen walked in and he looked around, and suddenly got the look on his face that read: 'What have I done?' Clerks approached him and asked if he could be helped. After nodding, he told the lady he wanted to get his wife something. The size of his wife could not be determined, so with a bright red face covered in sweat and stress, he left. Without a present for his wife.

Spending the next hour in Macy's, I watched as wives literally dragged their husbands by the collar into and out of a store, as they were crying and her back like an infant. The wives were calm at first, trying on everything they saw. But like a kettle being boiled, you could soon watch as she began to steam, hot water coming out of her ears. The husbands stopped their planning of an escape route, and after watching the scorching water from their wives, split like a banana out of the store as fast as they could possibly run.

When my father goes to the mall, his voice cracks as his skin turns pale. He places his hand over his heart to cover his heart attack, and if you look close enough, you might even catch a glimpse of the tear in the corner of his eye. On the other hand, is my less experience with the mall boyfriend who starts to feel his blood pressure rise the second I mention the word mall. Before we even pull up to the parking lot of the mall, he begins to ask when we can leave.

Girls try to help those cursed with the mallophobia. It fails every time. The crowd, with the people just pushing past you makes the hair on the back of a male's neck prickle. The have to be dragged into it by their feet, so the next time you go to the mall, especially during Christmas time, look on the ground for nail marks left by the dying men, as the enter the horror.

If you look close enough, the study would seem pointless. You don't need to take a scientific test to prove that a males heart and blood pressure rises, or a woman's stress level rises at the mall, you can come to that conclusion by just looking at them, even before they enter the mall.

INTERNET DANGERS CONT'D

continued from page 11

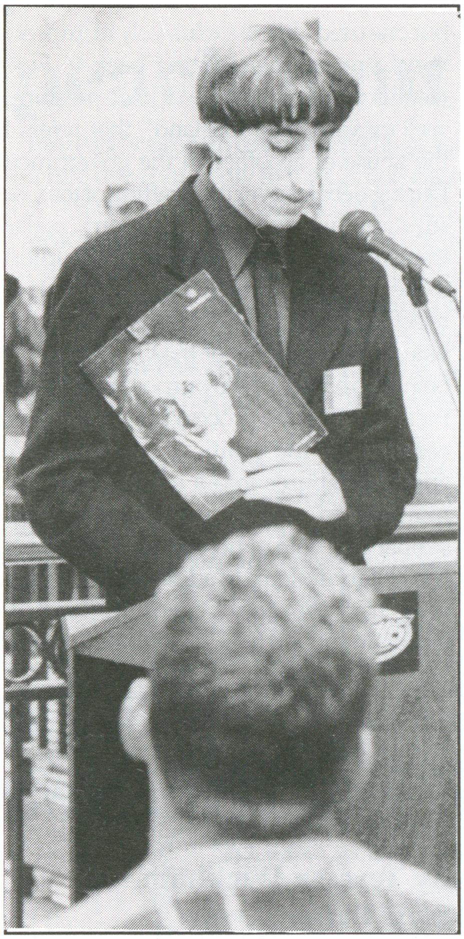
classes. Last year, McAlister's freshmen "Critical Issues and Technology" class took part in an online research group called the Critical Issues Forum (CIF). The theme of the project was terrorism and in order to write the assigned papers, the class used the Internet almost daily. According to McAlister the class was "actively seeking out various forms of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons". Filtering software on the computers would have rendered the use of the Internet useless and crippled the project. McAlister opposes blocking software and feels that it is unnecessary if students act responsibly, and teachers keep an eye out, "involving everyone is important, you need responsible teachers and responsible students."

Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt shares the same view as McAlister, but does not rule out the use filters in the future. He commented that filters may only be a partial barrier because if a student is determined to access improper material, he/she will do so and whether or not it occurs at school may make little difference in the long run. Schmidt also predicted that Acalanes would employ use of filters if they were to become truly effective at separating improper material from actual information.

Whether or not filtering software is practical is an unresolved issue, but it the controversy does not end there. The actual legality of using filters in public institutions and their relation to free speech and the First Amendment brings organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, and parents demanding protection for their children into direct conflict. This controversy will be explored in the second half of this two-part series.

District Students Find Outlet

By Damon Diederich
Staff Writer



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

JDotan speaks at the premiere of The Outlet, *the publication which he founded.*

JDotan had no idea how much fun coming out could be. Surrounded by live music, food and all kinds of people, it was an experience he could never have imagined. Coming out was the realization of the "Outlet," a groundbreaking student literary arts magazine, which premiered at a party Dec. 4 at Barnes and Noble in Walnut Creek.

Among dignitaries present at the affair were principals from all the schools involved, as well as representatives from Dreyers and Live 105. Contra Costa County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema and Lafayette's Mayor Erling Horn also made appearances at the event.

After opening speeches which lauded the magazine and its creators, the crowd listened to a live jazz trio and was treated to free cake and soda.

Those at the party appeared to enjoy reading the magazine. The Barnes and Noble representative at the party said that she thought the magazine looked good and had interesting features.

Students at Acalanes also liked the "Outlet." "I like it a lot," said junior Sage Howard. Acalanes "Outlet" advisor Andrew Thompson also had good things to say. "I thought it looked great," said an enthusiastic Thompson.

Brainchild of Dotan and Andy Szybalski, the "Outlet" is designed as a way for high school students to get their art/ideas published in a professional-looking magazine. Dotan saw a great lack of places for young people to get their thoughts and artistic talents recognized.

For Dotan, the realization of the "Outlet" as a glossy magazine is a dream come true. From his flash of inspiration to start the "Outlet," all the way to its premier, Dotan's dream was to see the "Outlet" be realized as he envisioned. Dotan said that all his hard work was worth it and that the staff and the first issue exceeded all his expectations. "Its like a dream come true," said Dotan.

Now, Dotan is very happy to see his dream become reality. Dotan hopes that the "Outlet" will be a great success in the community, just as he had hoped.

The Outlet is a quarterly publication, averaging 50 pages. Students can pick up free copies of the Outlet at their high school or at Barnes and Noble for $3. Students who wish to submit work to the Outlet should talk to the Acalanes Outlet Bureau Chief, Teressa Wickham.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE . . . . . .

Antz outshines
A Bugs life
Pg. 18

SWING DANCING

Swing Craze Dances into Acalanes

By Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

Crazy names like The Lindy Hop, West coast, East coast, Jitterbug, the Balboa, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Flying Neutrinos and Squirrel Nut Zippers all capture the outrageously fun aspect of the resurfacing trend of swing.

The new trend of swing dancing has influenced clothing, clubs and music preferences in teens and young adults and has really exploded in the past year.

The rage started with those over 21 due to the lack of underage swing clubs, but now there are all age clubs such as The Doghouse in San Francisco and the Acalanes Swing club. This wide variety of music and dance, originating in the 30s and 40s, is easy to catch onto, though it is hard for the girls to follow the guys' leading movements.

Swing is fast and energetic with a beat that seems to appeal to the younger generations, "And it's like a social dance, you can actually dance with partners which is another plus," said Karina Kremling, co-president of the Acalanes Swing Club and advanced swinger.

When describing the outfits, Kremling says, "The guys look really hot," and she says dressing up in vintage clothes is "glamorous". Girls wear longer skirts that swing around them easily and the boys wear suspenders with slacks. Both often wear the 30s style, two toned shoes.

Swing dancing originated in many different places throughout the world. It has a lot of African influence. That is why it was first not accepted in the white culture. During the Nazi domination in Germany, it was used as a form of rebellion for young people.

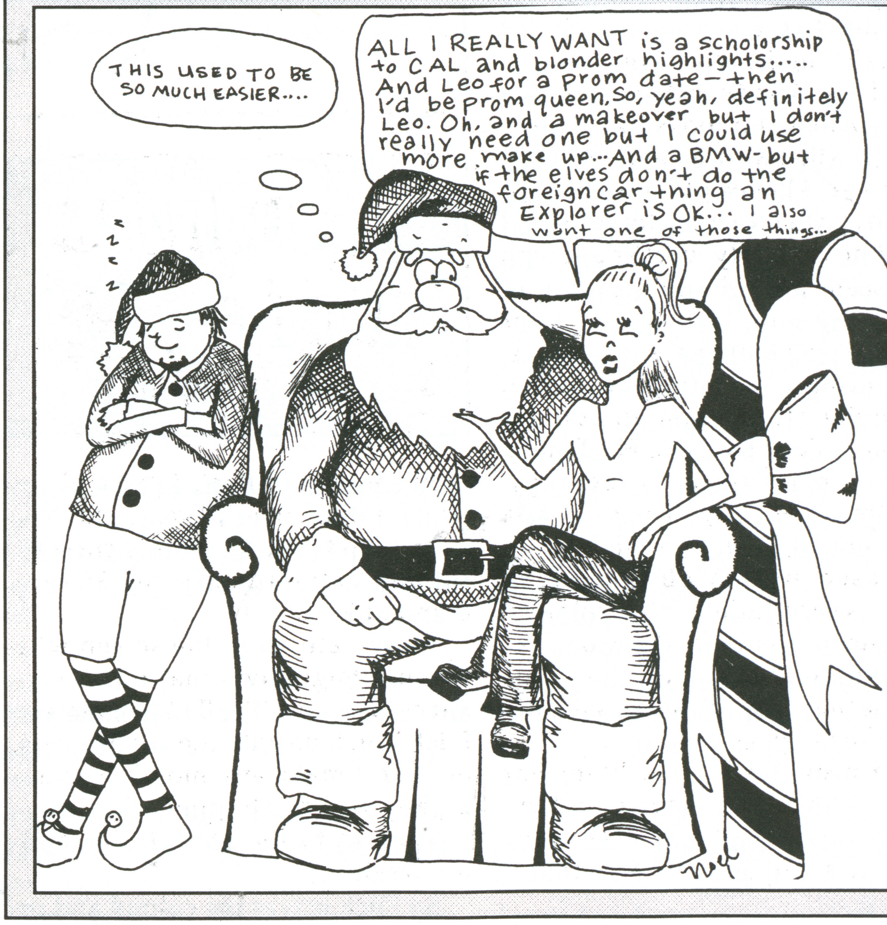
East Coast swing is said to be the most fundamental and basic form of swing though it didn't start until the 40s and 50s. It is really a simpler version of the Lindy Hop. The Lindy Hop, a highly improvisational dance, began in Harlem in the 1920s. The Jitterbug was the 'white mans' version of the Lindy. It was simpler, bouncier, faster and didn't usually involve aerials.

Another well known swing dance happens to be California's official state dance, West Coast Swing, which is popular because it can be danced to many types of music. It stems from country western swing and has a medium tempo which makes it less appealing to the younger groups now embracing swing.

Acalanes has also embraced this fad with the coming of the Acalanes Swing Club founded by Cynthia Cox, Karina Kremling and Nick Gomes. All types of people attend the club meetings, though the recent meetings have had only 15 participants and a high deficit of males to lead.

Though not as dynamic as the Open Swing Dance Championships that helped spread the recent swing craze, this club seems an upbeat and entertaining way to embrace the widespread interest in swing.

CARTOON CORNER

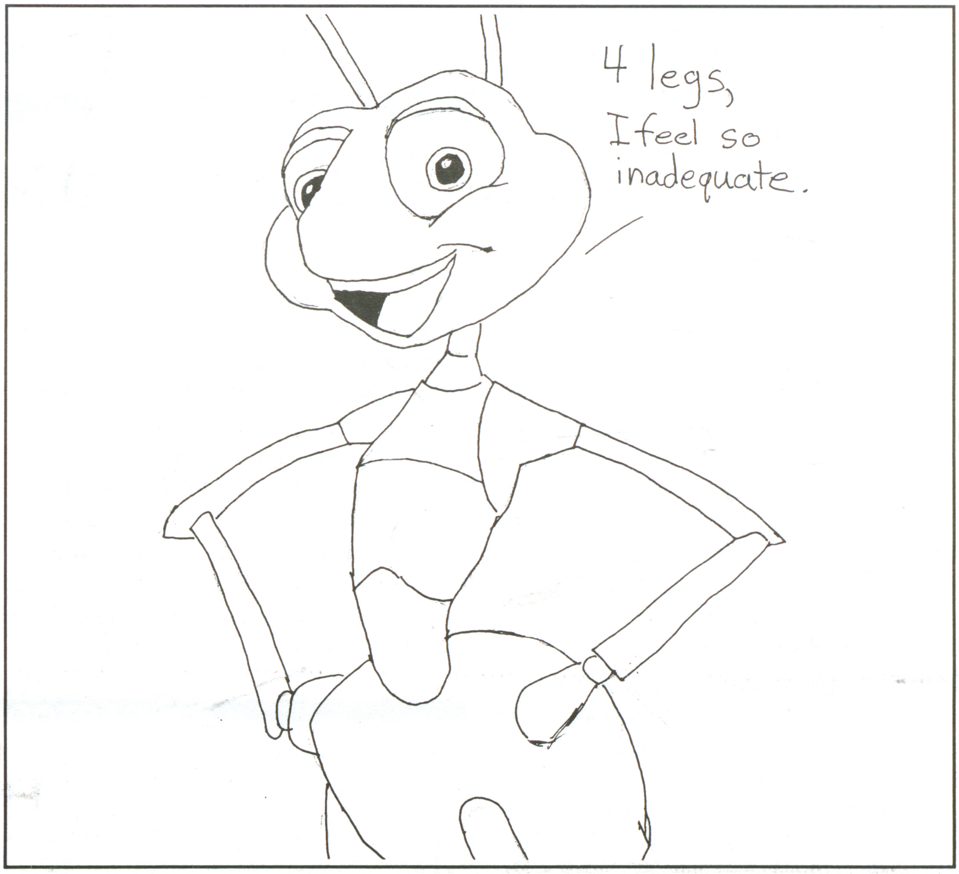

THIS USED TO BE SO MUCH EASIER....
ALL I REALLY WANT is a scholorship to CAL and blonder highlights..... And Leo for a prom date—then I'd be prom queen, So, yeah, definitely Leo. Oh, and a makeover but I don't really need one but I could use more make up...And a BMW- but if the elves don't do the foreign car thing an Explorer is OK... I also want one of those things...
z z z z
noel

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

MOVIE REVIEWS

Antz Throws *A Bug's Life* off the Hill

By Thomas Wille
Staff Writer/Illustrator


4 legs, I feel so inadequate.

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Antz
★★★
PG Dreamworks

The opening shots of *Antz* depict an enormous ant colony with thousands of indistinguishable ants being bombarded with ideological propaganda which lampoons the Soviet Union. This is one of those kid movies that kids won't understand. And even though kids may not understand the majority of the humor, *Antz* delivers some entertainment that parents should ask their kids to see.

Antz's main character, who is voiced by Woody Allen, acts like Woody Allen and looks like Woody Allen (if Allen were an ant). As such follows an Allenesque story of nerd gets girl. Allen's character is named Z, and he's a lowly worker ant who can't seem to find any meaning in just "doing it for the colony." After falling in love with the Ant Princess, Bala, during a fomenting revolution, Z is under attack from an evil ant general, voiced by Gene Hackman.

Antz's main focus is ideology. The film takes a page from the Ayn Rand book of thought, with Z being oppressed by his obligation to mindless servitude to "the colony."

However, the hero abandons extremist individualism for the greater cause and is only able to save the colony through cooperation.

Antz provides a good blueprint for other animated movies on how to keep intelligent audiences interested in a kid movie. For that I praise it.

A Bug's Life
★
G Pixar/Disney

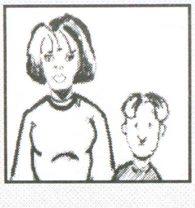
In contrast, *A Bug's Life* lacks appeal for those over 10 years old. The follow-up to the incredibly successful and extraordinary *Toy Story* is bland at best.

Pixar returns to the screen with another bug movie that follows an ant colony, specifically Flick the ant. Flick is in love with the ant princess, but can't make any moves because a gang of grasshoppers is always busting in to the ant hill demanding food.

So Flick leaves the colony and recruits a bunch of circus bugs to fight the grasshoppers. Numerous jokes that are household friendly and appeal only to the lowest common denominator bring up the boring rear.

A Bug's Life also has some underlying ideological issues. The grasshoppers convince the ants that their sole purpose in life is to harvest food for the grasshoppers, and the grasshopper leader is always sure to point out that the ants outnumber the grasshoppers 10 to one. He knows that if the ants were ever to organize, they would be able to defeat the grasshoppers. Any deeper meaning is far outweighed by the Disney efforts to get a kid to laugh at something cute and fails to produce anything significant. So in absolute contrast to *Antz, A Bug's Life* doesn't treat its ideological issues with significance or satire, and it loses the adult audience.

INSIDE . . . . . .



Chuck Chats About Applying to Colleg
Pg. 21

POP MUSIC

Pop Music:Lot's of Money, No Talent

By Sam Cunningham
Staff Writer

There are a lot of suckers in this world. As the old cliche goes, "There's one born every minute." This could not be any more true than in the world of pop music. The people who get suckered are everyday people who allow MTV to tell them what is cool and what to buy.

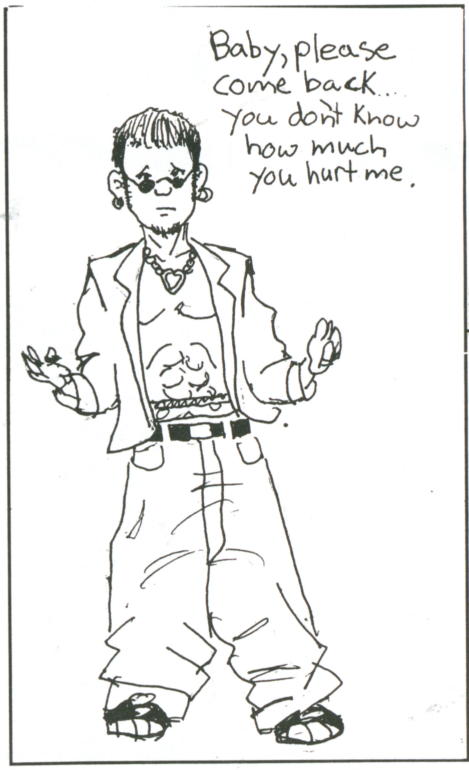
The most recent example of this has been with "pop" bands like the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync. The people behind these groups know that they can play upon the emotions of teenage girls by dressing up a bunch of young, good-looking guys and having them sing about their feelings. If you think that 'N Sync really cares about girls' emotions, than you are one of the suckers, tricked into buying their music by MTV and the record companies. Just last year 'N Sync performed in the Acalanes quad.

The appearence was the "band's" first promotional performace at a high school as signed artists. The concert cost Acalanes nothing and the forces of trashy music were hard at work passing out posters, tapes and videos to stir up Acalanes girls for the well-hyped event. But rather than feeling proud, I am ashamed that our high school was chosen as the starting point for the mass swindle of young people.

Hanson and the Spice Girls are two more groups that, by all means, shouldn't exist. Hanson has become popular by distorting the "long haired rocker" image so it will fit the wants of screaming 10-year old girls. Their music really is trash, and the immaturity of it all makes me want to puke sometimes.

The Spice Girls have snatched the feminism ticket and twisted it so they can sell records. According to the Spice Girls, feminism means wearing short skirts and having large breasts. Any actual feminist would tell you instantly that the Spice Girls' skimpy outfits and platform shoes don't resemble "girl power" in any way.

But teenage girls aren't the only suckers involved with popular culture. Boys get sold images which tend to be violence and toughness. Just look at hip-hop music: the sophomore class performed "Ghetto Superstar" for the lip sync contest. Even though it was obnoxious and pretty stupid all around, the song was still performed and, having lived in Oakland myself for 11 years, I couldn't help but laugh at a bunch of Lafayette teens awkardly trying to perform a song written about a world that couldn't be any more different from Lafayette.


Baby, please come back... You don't Know how much you hurt me.

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Gangsta rap sells the image of violence mainly to young males who want to act tough. This explains why the vast majority of hip-hop records are sold to white suburban adolescents. Because rap music portrays violence as "cool" and killing people as an everyday thing, the whole concept seems sort of like a game. Nobody who listens to rap seems to notice when the image of violence becomes the reality of violence as it did for Tupac Shakur who rather than pulling out a pistol and shooting people (like he would in his music), screamed like a little girl as a masked man filled him full of bullets from three feet away. Lyrics, and the "cool" image that goes with them are all part of the marketing scam to get suckers, or anyone who watches MTV, to buy records which they will forget when Polygram Records brings on the new fad.

Speaking of brainwashing, consider that the swing dance "revival" is actually a massive scam designed to get kids to buy more junk that will be gathering dust a year from now. It was created by record labels, much like the way ska music was revived around this time last year. Before that it was Green Day and punk music. Before them it was grunge with Nirvana and Soundgarden.

The point of this article was simply to point out that listeners aren't deciding what is "cool". Record executives (the *last* people who should be involved with youth culture) are setting the trends, and they will always present intellectually insulting music, much like they did with 'N Sync, the Spice Girls, and Hanson. Check out three bands that deserve recongnition as meaningful songwriters and skilled musicians: R.E.M., The Police, and above all, U2. Try one of their records, you won't be disappointed.

Making up your mind is crucial if you have any hope of thinking for yourself in the future, because if you don't decide what *you* like, then somebody else will decide for you.

PRO/CON

Volunteer Shortage Plagues Military

Should the United States Military reinstitute the draft?

PRO

By Ryan Rein
Staff Writer

Due to the booming economy, the United States Military has had trouble encouraging enough people to join in order to sustain all military posts.

As the economy fluctuates, so does enlistment in the military service. When the economy declines, there is a higher unemployment rate, so more people tend to enlist in the military. If the economy is strong, as it is now, then fewer people tend to volunteer, making a draft necessary.

The draft is a good way to have people serve the country. If not enough people will volunteer for the military, then the United States Military will gradually become weaker.

It is necessary to not allow that to happen because it would put the United States in a more vulnerable situation for attack.

If there was a draft, the citizens of the United States could live their lives without worrying about being attacked by another country.

Without a draft, many people simply overlook the military and go on to do other things instead of serving to protect the country. The draft can correct this problem by making people view the armed forces in a different way.

When asked of his opinion, junior Vijay Sekhon replied: "I think it's a good idea because without an ongoing draft, there wouldn't be enough people on duty to adequately protect our nation. Since most people are too scared to enlist in the armed forces or join the reserves, I guess we have no choice but to force an ongoing draft." A military draft is essential for the good of the entire country's defense.

The draftees might actually learn to enjoy their lives in the military. They would then spread that on to other people. Soon, there would be many more people volunteering for the armed services, and there would be no need for a draft anymore.

Because the Army pays college tuition to those who join, the draft could increase the percent of people who can afford to go to college. Lower class people who have the grades to get into a college sometimes cannot go to the college of their choice because their family cannot afford to send them.

Many people are patriotic and would fight for their country even without a draft. To these people, it is not an issue whether or not there is a draft. They would join the armed forces anyway.

A draft is necessary to encourage other people to become patriots, working to protect their country.

CON

By Tim Shieh
Staff Writer

Service in the military should be a voluntary, patriotic duty, not a forced obligation.

It is not morally sound to force people to fight for a cause they do not believe in. The government simply should not require you to kill someone you don't even know. And a reinstitution of the draft would do exactly this.

Moreover, compulsory military service is not an American tradition. Admittedly, America conscripted men into service during the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. However, the draft was only used in times of peril, not to augment the military in peacetime.

Even since America abolished the draft in 1973, we have gotten along fine with our volunteer military. Just take Operation Desert Storm for example. Since our armed forces hold the prestige of being the most technologically sophisticated and well trained in the world, we do not require such a large standing army, much less a draft.

A draft would cause undue strain on the American society. Take the social unrest in New York during 1863 for example. The very first war draft caused the deaths of over 100 African-Americans during these riots.

More recently, the Vietnam War caused harmful divisions in American society. As in the Civil War, many rich young men bought their way out of the draft or escaped because of political connections. The less prosperous cried out that it was a "rich man's war, but a poor man's fight." Unfair drafting practices have occurred more than once in American history, and they can easily happen again.

Junior Steven Jones suggested, "[If America was that desperate for manpower], why not do something drastic such as having compulsory military service [like Israel]?" Even if the idea would seem rash to some, it might actually be better than having an unfair draft.

The Contra Costa Times reported that the American military is "struggling to fill its ranks" with the Navy in the worst shape of all the branches of the Armed Service. On the contrary, Marine and Navy recruitment officers in Contra Costa County said that the Bay Area/California quotas have been met. It is apparent then that even speculating on a draft is unnecessary at this time.

Instead of spending millions of dollars trying to fix the shortage, the military only needs to have well-trained recruiters to explain the personal benefits or armed service.

Soldiers that fully believe in the cause they're fighting for would better serve America's military. A son or daughter of America, well-trained, competent, and serving of their own volition, would be more effective in the instance of war.

CHAT WITH CHUCK

Nausea and the College Application Process

By Charlie Eaton
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I spent the last few days yelling, "Student for sale!" while I toured a host of prestigious colleges and universities. Oddly, my words echoed back to me as colleges solicited me to become another cog in the machine operated by the education industry.

When I embarked on my journey, I held the idealistic notion that I was searching for a school where I could find my path in life, where I could discover how I could change society for the better. But it only took about 20 minutes to discover that I was actually entering a marketing war where students are bought and sold like parts of a machine that manufactures the world's leaders.

That's precisely what the process is, a marketing war. And the war disgusts me. Recalling the process makes me want to drop my pen and go say prayers to the great, white, porcelain god in my bathroom.

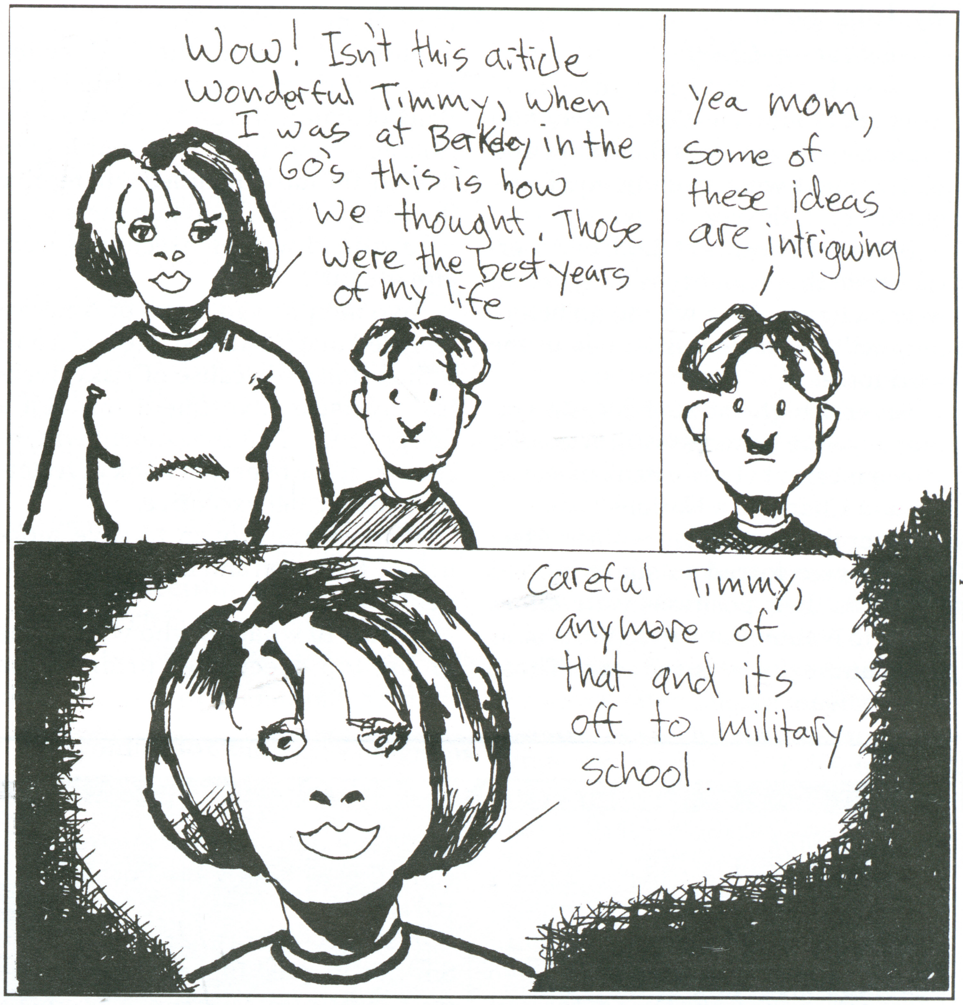
The admissions officers, who likely moonlight as used car salesmen, make me nauseous with their information meetings and tours. They sell their schools like merchandise and later purchase students like amenities to make their schools look better.

You don't believe it? Then why do schools advertise how many National Merit Scholars they have? Why do they take students' best two SAT scores? Schools do it so they can tell the next class of students that their school is great because their students have such high SAT scores.

You're not going to learn anything of value from the admissions officers of the prestigious "Ivy," "sub-Ivy," and "wish we were Ivy" schools. If you really want to learn more about a "pretigious university," you should talk to the admissions officer for the school's counterpart.

But what disgusts me about the bidding war is not the colleges trying to make themselves look as good as possible. It is the need I feel to change myself to look like what they want to see. "Sell out or get out," is the subliminal message I'm receiving.

And more disturbing than the message is the flood of students who are selling out. Students determine their class schedules by considering what colleges and universities want them to take. The first question asked is no longer, "What classes interest me?" Instead the question is, "Counselor, what classes do I need to take to get into Princeton?"


Wow! Isn't this article wonderful Timmy, when I was at Berkley in the 60's this is how we thought. Those were the best years of my life
Yea mom, some of these ideas are intriguing
Careful Timmy, anymore of that and its off to military school.

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

I stand here teetering on the edge of selling out while my friends spill over the cliff, falling into the places that the education industry has assigned for them. Too many of them see college as a springboard to high income corporate employment.

For instance, my Dad conducts Dartmouth application interviews, and he is often questioned about corporate recruiting at Dartmouth. Whenever I hear this question, I rush to the door of the room he's interviewing in to hear him reply, "I don't know, all the corporate recruiters were afraid to come on the campus after we tarred and feathered the guy from Dow Chemical." Then I delight in seeing the interviewee's polite smile wilt into a disappointed frown. After all, shouldn't we shoot for something better than a high paying job with a corporation that makes weapons of mass destruction like General Electric and Dow Chemical?

I want all the resources available at those schools. In W.E.B. Dubois' words, I want to "use the master's tools" to destroy the machine that produces multimillionaire robber barons.But comrades, let's stop the conformity here. We don't need the master's power tools to dismantle his machine.

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, it's about time we start taking courses that interest us, not courses that interest admissions officers. And seniors, don't hesitate to show who you are on your applications to colleges instead of exactly who they want to see.

B OF A LAYOFFS

Women Robbed by Bank of America

By Julie Zorn
Co-Editor-in-Chief

When I was a child, my parents and teachers taught me that society had come a long way from the sixties and that women were gaining equal opportunity in the work place.

But recent events at Bank of America prove that equality is a myth and women have a long way to go before they will be treated as equals in the workforce.

Several high ranking female employees were unnecessarily degraded after a merger between Bank of America and Charlotte's NationsBank.

After the merger, ten women executives were forced to stand by and watch as their positions were either given to NationsBank executives or as their authority was reduced. Those women were robbed of their jobs and their dignity by B of A.

Hugh McColl Jr., the bank chairman and chief executive claims that Bank of America is an "inclusive meritocracy," meaning that employees that are the most qualified will receive the best positions, and that there were no qualified women executives from either bank.

Two months ago, Bank of America revealed that it had lost one and a half billion dollars because of risky, reckless overseas investment through a hedge fund. This investment was, of course, at the behest of Bank of America's male chief executive.

Women are proven to save more money than men and invest more prudently than men.

Yet all 10 women, who were some of the top executives prior to the merger, happened to lose all their authority to the smaller NationsBank. Not only did BofA get rid of most of their top women executives, but they did not appoint or hire any new ones.

This is a blatant example of discrimination in today's society. McColl cannot claim anything else when only 11 of BofA's 45 senior member council are women. Women are a majority in this country and they should not be treated as a minority.

After college, I hope that I will be able to find a job based on my qualifications and not be hindered by my gender. For the time being, though, I realize that women have to work harder than men in order to keep up in today's workforce and the first thing that every woman should do is withdraw every dime from Bank of America.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In response to Charlie Eaton's November 20 editorial, *Representative Tauscher Rides the Elephant.*

Here U.S. representative Ellen Tauscher was chastised for not voting along party lines. Justifiably, that can upset some people who believe that political parties should stand for a certain array of beliefs that are written in stone.

In Mr. Eaton's article, Ellen Tauscher was referred to as a representative. Why say that it is wrong for a representative to act like a representative and not a politician? There is a difference between the two. A politician is a person who focuses on their career in Washington. A representative, represents political beliefs that are not always that of the party unto which they reside. Nonpartisan politics is the great beneficiary of the United States government. Nowhere does it say that a representative is required to vote along party lines.

It's true. There are no more Mr. Smith's in Washington. But, now with multi party primaries and specific issues being brought to out attention are attempting to defeat partisan politics. These attempts are made to digress back to a state of wholly partisan politics, where those who empower the political parties can control careers at will. Nonpartisan politics don't harm anyone and they can benefit all. Don't allow the Eatons and the partisan powers to promote this false sense of unity by defaming the rights of the representation or the *people's* civil servants. From the right wing wackos to the bleeding heart ultra-liberals, our representatives represent the people, not the party.

-Sean M. Schneider

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am sick and tired of Thomas Wille's cartoons concerning Chile. He has no clue on what he is talking about for one. Two, I doubt he has ever been to the country. I know he is trying to find the truth but he doesn't know what it is. He only cares to bring the matter up about Chile to show that he is knowlegeable about wrongs that have been done. For two years I have researched things about that. All of my relatives are from Chile, including my father. I have been to Chile in the past and lately. So, will you please tell Mr. Wille to find out facts before he opens his mouth.

-Name Witheld by Request

Please Submit Letters To The Editor

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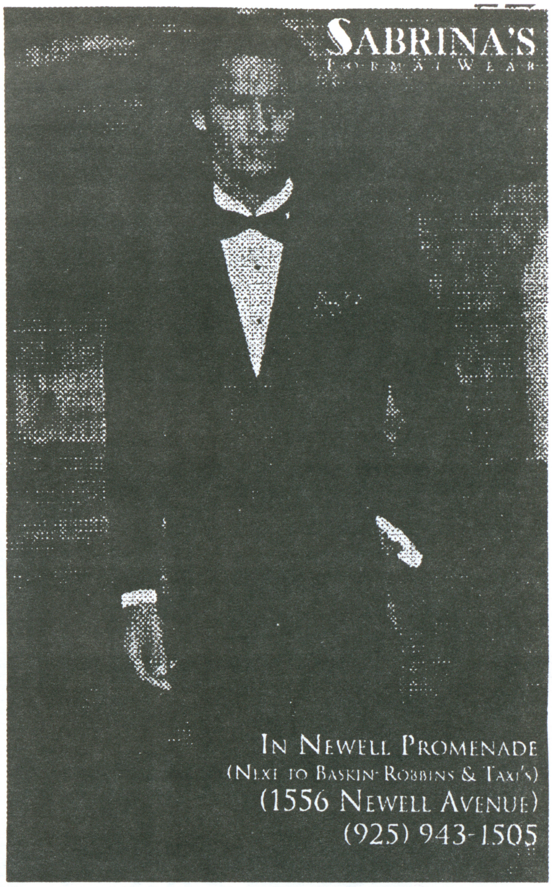

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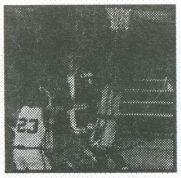


Boys Basketball loses to San Ramon.
Pg. 26

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Dons *Rush* Into The New Season

Jake Nicholson
Staff Writer

After playing about 45 games over the summer, going through an intensive 3-week camp, and beating Washington High and Analy in the early preseason, the women's basketball team is off to a blazing start.

Last year, coach Casey Rush took the team to the NorCal finals, but they played their worst game of the season, according to Rush, in their loss in overtime to Sacred Heart of San Francisco.

Though the team lost star players Meredith Galer, Daniel Silvani, and Julie Cragholm, three veterans returned to the starting lineup. Juniors Corey Mizusawa, who appeared in USA Today, Hillary Andersen, and Lauren Murray will possibly take the team even farther than last year.

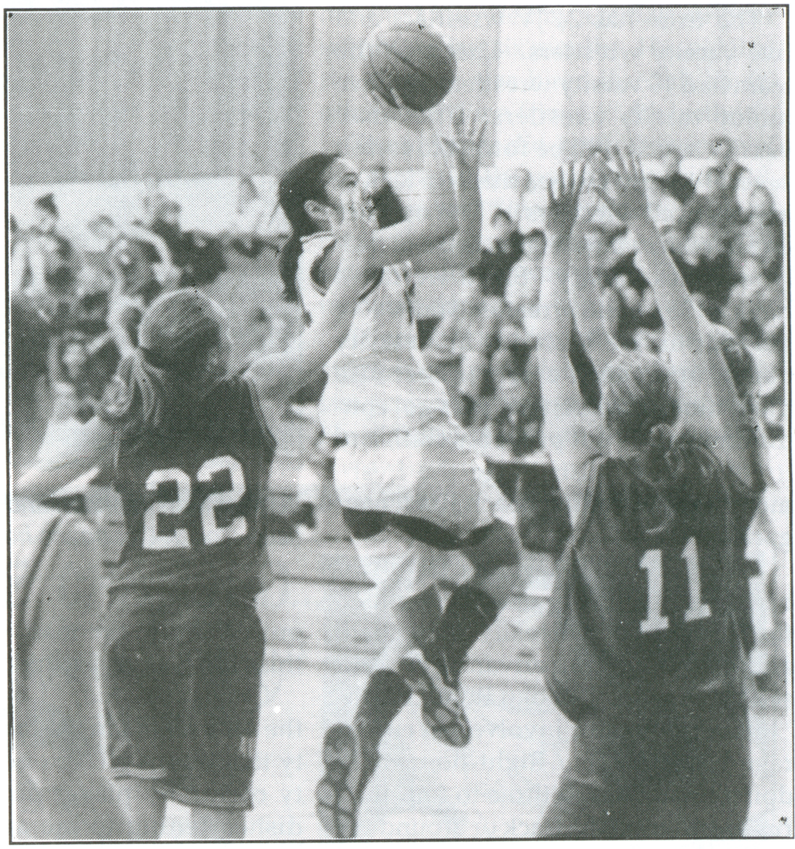
Many of the team's members returned as well. Rush feels he has a more experienced team who is used to his coaching style and knows what he wants. "The kids respect me because they know that I know what the hell I'm talking about."

A scary thought: Rush also thinks the team this year is more athletic, quicker, and more experienced than last years team which came close to a NorCal championship.

The '97-98 team finished with a 31-5 record with the core of the team composed mostly of sophomores and seniors. So, they've lost important players, kept some, and gained some like sophomore rookie Jessica "Jessie" Plauché.

The game against Analy on Tues., Dec. 8 gave Acalanes a crowd surprisingly large for a preseason game and Michael Jackson's "Beat It" to warm up to, but their was one thing in the girls' way before they could walk away with a victory. Analy.

Analy, from Sabastopol, unexpectedly kept up with Acalanes fast pace and maintained a small lead over Acalanes for a good portion of the game. According to Rush, this was a result of poor passing, defense, and free-throw shooting. And with 17 turnovers, a team has to have something going well in order to beat any team.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Third year starting guard Corrie Mizusawa cuts into the hole inside the Analy defense and leaps vertically as she prepares to shoot a lay-up. Mizusawa's Dons defeated Analy 54-48.

This motivation wasn't found until late into the fourth quarter when Analy had cranked up an eight point lead of 42-34. Then, something clicked.

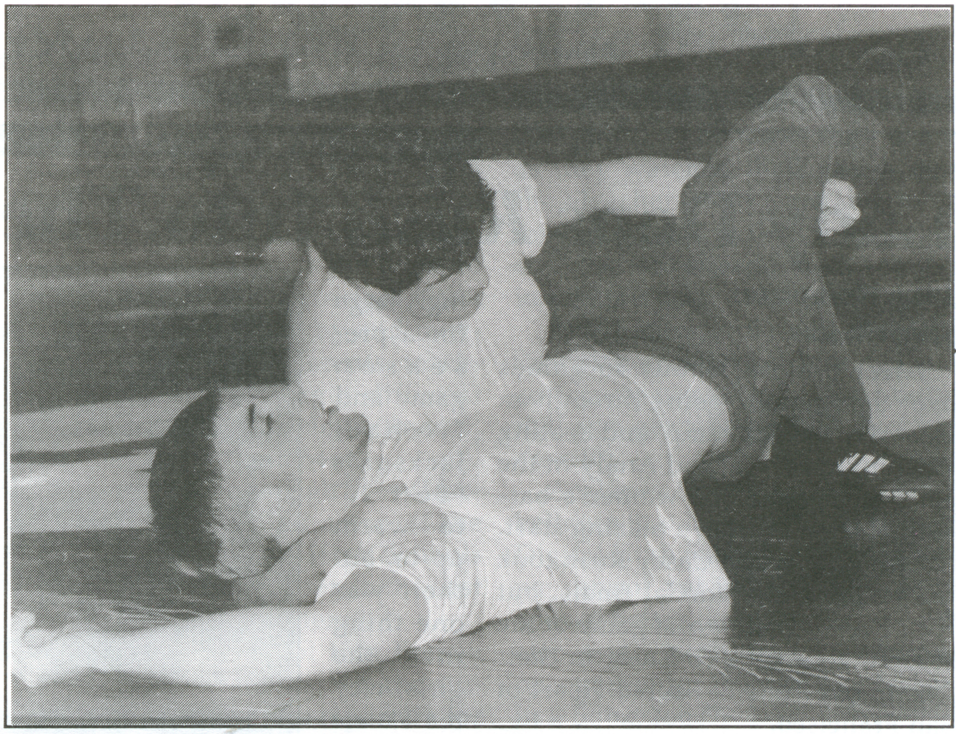
Nobody was quite sure what it was. Analy assistant coach Kevin Lowry proposed that his team couldn't keep up with the pressure put on by the Dons. Rush said maybe they were afraid of the idea of loosing. Mizusawa said, "We realized it was our house."

Whatever the cause, the stands liked the result. Steal after basket after steal was followed by a generous standing ovation. And when the Dons came out with a 54-48 victory produced in about three minutes, all anyone could say was "Wow. Maybe it's Rush's new warm-up suit."

WRESTLING

Wrestling Pins Hopes on Frosh Girls (and Boys)

By Myles Rush
Staff Writer



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Juniors Matt Johnson and Navid Nouri practice against each other in wrestling practice. Coach Changaris hopes his upperclassmen can help lead his young squad.

Although the Acalanes wrestling team is seeing a boom in the numbers of freshman competitors, the true challenge may be the wrestle the team faces with a deficient distribution among the weight classes.

The team has 24 JV wrestlers and five varsity wrestlers. Last year the team had 10 varsity wrestlers and five junior varsity wrestlers. The small varsity squad will be forced to forfeit several weight classes due to a lack of experienced wrestlers. "The number one person in the weight class normally wrestles varsity. Since we don't have a 135 pound wrestler, and we've got four or five freshmen in a varsity match up against a senior...because the senior's got strength, he's got conditioning, he's got probably skill, and it would only discourage the freshmen," said wrestling coach Jim Changaris.

"It's good that they're freshman, because once they get to be seniors, they are going to be really developed, and they'll have an advantage," said senior wrestler Tomoko Roudebush.

"Every practice involves an entourage of workouts. Right now we're doing about two to three to four mile runs...either on the track or around the school area," said junior Matt Johnson. The team then stretches, does calisthenics, and does pushups, according to Johnson.

Some of the top wrestlers are seniors Sam Glickman and Scott Seibert and juniors Navid Nouri, Jon Hill, Johnson, and Josh Garrett. While they have great talent, they still need bigger people on the team. Their heaviest wrestler weighs 189 pounds. They don't have one JV or varsity football player on the team. Other schools, such as De La Salle have at least 15 football players on their team.

"To determine the number one person in a weight class, you have everybody wrestle, and the guy that comes out on top is the man, or woman in this case," said Changaris.

Changaris said, "I believe we are the only school in Contra Costa County that doesn't have one junior varsity of varsity player out...It's a little disheartening to me as a coach because if you take most other schools around here, and everybody that I talk to, there is a coalition between wrestling and football, and the same thing like there is a cross training between basketball and volleyball."

The wrestling team is young and very new to this sport. "The basis of the success of this team lies in the freshmen class. Overall I think we have a lot of team spirit. I think the upperclassmen that are on the team show a lot of team spirit. They're showing a lot of leadership. Overall I've got a real good group," said Changaris.

Their next match will be on Jan. 7 at Freedom.

VOLLEYBALL

Strong Finish for Volleyball

Acalanes girls volleyball finished their best season since 1979 and broke a school record in most single season wins with 32 overall.

In North Coast, the girls were seeded fourth out of 12 teams, and lost to top-seedeed El Molino in the third round in three straight games. El Molino later went on to win NorCal.

In TCAL's, the Lady Dons finished third overall after losing to Campolindo in the semifinals with a 12-2 record.

They finished the season ranked eigth in the Bay Area.

-Chris Vetek

SKATEBOARDING

Skating Through Stereotypes and K-Grinds

By Chris Vetek
Sports Editor

Kick-flips, 360-flips, half-cabs, Smith grinds, K-grinds, hard flips, huh?

Enter the world of skateboarding, an alternative sport often viewed through stereotypical lenses by the average Joe.

Sophomore Josh Petty knows all about this intense sport. Petty grew up in sunny San Diego, where alternative sports like surfing, skateboarding, "long-boarding" (long skateboard used to cruise), snowboarding, and roller-blading were popular. So naturally he got involved in all of these sports to feel included.

"I started in fifth grade. My friends all skated, and I didn't want to feel left out," he said.

He moved here before freshman year, but every summer he visits his friends in Fresno and San Diego and skates with them.

Petty has traveled down to San Diego to watch the X-Games for the past two years. He watched skater Tony Hawk, who skates the "vert-ramp," Steve Caballero, a street-skater, and many others in competition.

"I was more into skating last year. I'm not as much into it this year, but I still like to go," Petty said.

There are many, many moves in skateboarding. To give a sneak peek, we'll go over the moves mentioned above. A kick-flip is a basic move where the board flips over sideways. A 360-flip is a kick-flip, plus the board rotates around sideways 360 degrees. In a half-cab, there is a backwards 180 degree board rotation.

Then there are the grinds. To understand the grinds, one has to understand the board structure. Underneath the board, the wheels are connected to "trucks" which run perpendicular to the board length.

When a skater pulls off a Smith grind, he jumps up on a rail with his board and slides one truck along the rail, while the other truck slants down. In a K-grind, the front truck slides on the rail while the back one sticks up. Finally hard flips, the most complex move mentioned here, are pulled off when the board, between the legs, is flipped and rotates 180 degrees.

Courtesy Photo

Junior Nick Jefferson nose-slides along a public bench. Skateboarders are inventive when looking for a place to skateboard.

For beginners who want to learn the sport, there are camps at the YMCA in the summer, and the Pleasant Hill YMCA just opened a new skating park last Saturday. Petty also said that "The Dock" in Antioch is a popular skating location, where newcomers can learn from friends who skate there.

"Most people just learn from their friends. It takes a while to learn," Petty said.

Pleasanton also has a free skating park open every day.

Most skaters face some questioning from police when they skate around shopping centers or high schools, two popular places because of the cement surface and because "there's stuff to do there," said Petty.

Once when Petty was skating with friends at Huntington High School, he got a $50 ticket from a policeman. That was his only ticket, but he said he's gotten many warnings from cops. "They usually just give warnings the first time," he said.

Then there are the stereotypes.

"(People) think we cause trouble and we're the rebels. But it's not always us," said Petty.

He said he's been asked "lots of times" if he smoked, another common stereotype associated with skaters.

"It's not true. I mean I guess lots of skaters do smoke, maybe, but I know a lot of them that don't," so it's not fair to point fingers or falsely accuse them, he said.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Duffaut, Gingery Put Wolves in Doghouse

Reed Miller
Staff Writer

The Acalanes boys basketball team lost a tough preseason game at San Ramon Valley 47-45, on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

The Dons were missing injured senior starter Erik Ramp and seniors Mike Rhodes and Kenji McRae as well.

"If we were playing a team that was weak and what happened tonight happened, I'd be really concerned," said Coach Rob Collins. "This was a good high school game, and this team has gained from this experience. It's going to get us more and more ready for the playoffs."

Both teams had lots of turnovers in the first half, keeping the score low. The Dons had 12.

San Ramon's star center,who is six foot 10, provided trouble for Acalanes (2-3). Senior starter Matt Teichmann did a good job containing him for most of the game, but was out-jumped on some plays.

The Dons were up 12-8 at the end of the first quarter, but soon fell behind. Good defense by Teichmann and senior Brett Gingery brought the Dons to within three at the half, down 23-20.

The turnovers continued for both teams in the second half, more so for Acalanes than for San Ramon, who turned the turnovers into points to maintain their lead at the end of the third quarter, 36-31.

Some key three point shots by Gingery, junior Matt Durrell, and junior Terry Moore brought the Dons to within a point of San Ramon in the fourth quarter. Down two with the clock winding down, the Dons gave the ball to C.J. Duffaut under the basket. San Ramon's center blocked the shot and possibly fouled Duffaut, but referees did not make the call. San Ramon went on to win it 47-45.

Gingery, the Dons high scorer, who played with a pulled hamstring, made five three-pointers in the game and scored 17 points. Teichmann had eight points.

Coach Rob Collins felt the Dons played well, and that San Ramon Valley is "a good team. It's not like we were playing some chump change squad. They're in the playoffs every year."

Acalanes won their first round game of the Husky Classic 63-41 over Turlock. The Dons played Livermore in the semifinals and won 76-62 with half of the Dons' points coming from Duffaut with 22 and Gingery with 16. The Dons lost 60-57 to Washington in the finals.

The Dons lost a practice game at Saint Ignatious of San Francisco 62-29. Duffaut said that they had an off night.

The Dons lost in the second round of the North Coast Sectionals last year after struggling with Miramonte in league play. Duffaut said, "We've got a lot of leadership this year" on the four co-captained team, and he thinks the Dons can contain Miramonte.

Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Senior Dons forward CJ Duffaut falls to the ground attempting a drive, while two San Ramon defenders rush to contain him. The Dons finished preseason play at 2-2.

SOCCER

Injured Lady Dons Fall to Carondolet

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

Sophomore Jenny Barbera flies down the field, full throttle, and maneuvers past multiple defenders. With a quick fake she passes the ball off to her sister, senior Beth Barbera, who smashes it from the eighteen past the goalies outstretched hands. The team goes wild, and coach Hal McArthur just smiles. The girls have won their first game during practice.

After taking fourth in the league last season, with a record of 11-4, the girls return suffering a loss of three key players. Sophomore Lindsay Wescott moved to San Ramon Valley, while junior Sonia Lamel and senior Ellen Love are out due to knee injuries.

The girls lost their practice game to Carondolet 0-3 away on Dec. 12. Although the team put up a good fight, it fell short of the opponent's strength.

"We played better in the second half, but we only had fourteen players with a bunch of injuries. We could've played a better game. If we step it up and get healthy, we'll have a great season," said senior outside marking back Alexis Machado.

Defense fell short on tackles and didn't put in 100%, allowing the ball to slip by them. In the offensive end, the key player was Beth Barbera, who took charge of the field and tried to win the game.

The girls tried to match the power of Carondolet, but the number of people injured gave the upper hand to Carondolet. They took it and held on to it.

Varsity was also blessed with three key newcomers this season. Senior Heather Stretch is ready to tear up the field, while sophomore Leah Smith and freshman Emy Gillmore are ready to have a few more years on the team.

"We had a young team last year, and we didn't get a lot of our key players back, so we had more holes to fill than expected. We'll have a building year, but also a productive one," said Beth Barbera.

With the combining of the North and South divisions into one league this year, the first official game starts on Jan. 5.

Junior Amanda Carroll flies in the air in a pre-league game. Carroll and the Lady Dons are the dark horse of league play this year, but suffered against Carondolet.

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

Cross Country Has Off Day

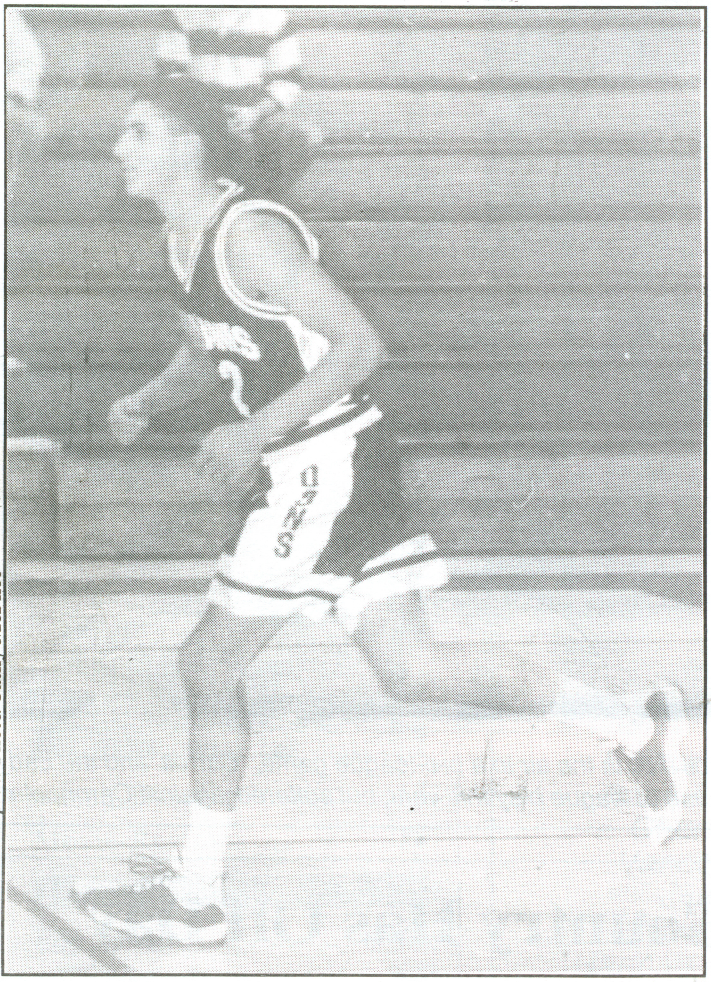
By Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

"It is time to go to war. It's time to do battle," said cross country coach Manny Myers at the last cross country meet, the Meet of Champions, on Saturday, Nov. 22.

The Acalanes varsity boys team finished in the middle of the pack in division three. A Maria Carillo runner won the race. As a team, Acalanes didn't run as well as they have in the past. Acalanes' first runner to finish was senior Chris Vetek, who finished 22nd with a 17:10. Freshman Royce Anderson followed him with an 18:02 (46th place), and then Darryl Wong finished with 18:25 (60th). Then Alex Baca came in 84th (19:15) followed closely by sophomore Steve Vetek (19:17, 88th). Aaron Grafton and Josh Petty took 92nd and 93rd, both at 19:20.

The Acalanes varsity girls came in a fairly steady stream. Junior Nikala Prowznik preceded the others, taking 22nd with a 20:44. Within a second of each other, juniors Mary Thomas (21:11) and Megan Johnstone (21:12) took 32nd and 33rd. Soon after, Amy Judy took 37th (21:25), Sabrina Lee took 41st (21:33) and Petra Kohler took 50th (22:09). Erin Riordan, just barely behind, closed the race for Acalanes with a 22:17, taking 52nd. Once more, the girls showed their success at pack running.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Rachel Rosemeyer

Senior Rachel Rosemeyer holds the honor for Female Athlete of the Issue. She transferred from rival Campolindo last year as a star athlete in both track and basketball. This year she helped jumpstart the Acalanes girls basketball team in preseason play under the intense coach Casey Rush. Rosemeyer brings natural talent combined with a high work ethic to a girls squad that thrived on such traits last year and two years ago. In their nonleague victory over Analy, she was the high scorer with 16 points, helping them win 54-48. This talented Lady Dons squad welcomes her dominant on-court presence and leadership.

C.J. Duffaut

Although he does not vocally lead his boys basketball team on the floor, senior C.J. Duffaut leads by example, and for his outstanding play, he is Blueprint*'s choice for Male Athlete of the Issue. "He works hard all the time," says senior teammate Justin Smith. His biggest contribution to the team is "hard work, at defense and at rebounding." In the first round of the Husky Classic, Duffaut scored 22 points, was the high scorer, and elevated his team to beat Turlock 63-41. He is a menacing presence down low and a valuable asset for the Dons.*

ACALANES
23
ANALY
4
20

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini